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S. B. Bone

LETTERS

FROM

THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT

IN

PENNSYLVANIA:

To which are added,

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
OF PENNSYLVANIA; AND EXTRACTS FROM THE
LAWS RESPECTING ALIENS AND
NATURALIZED CITIZENS.

BY C. B. JOHNSON, M. D.

London:

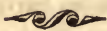
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Survey

THE
BRITISH EMIGRANT SOCIETY
TO
THEIR COUNTRYMEN.



The British Emigrant Society, established in Susquehanna county, have read with much attention the following Letters, from one of their members. They have carefully examined the statements contained in them, and fully concur in opinion as to their correctness.

The object of the Society has been to secure an eligible situation for their countrymen ; and by obtaining a large tract of land, to enable them to settle together, and, at the same time, to procure the land at a low price. In this, they have been met by the liberality of the proprietor, who was pleased

Ms. Hist. Survey 29 Nov 79
Dawson & Pine

with their intentions, and desirous of promoting them. As the Society disclaim all speculations; they invite their countrymen to the spot, which they have selected, on the terms of their contract; requiring only, as a claim to the privileges, which it offers, that those who come, shall bring with them a good moral character.

From the following work it will be seen, that in Susquehanna county the first crop usually pays more than all the expenses of clearing and fencing the land, and of sowing, harvesting, and threshing the grain. Consequently the clearing of land is a profitable business. That land encreases rapidly in value. That the difference or saving of expense of a family of seven persons, young and old, which together with the sundry articles taken with them, should weigh a ton and an half, going to Susquehanna county; and the same family going to the state of Illinois, in the western part of the United States, is sufficient to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land in Susquehanna county, under the Society's contract.

That the saving of a mechanic, with a family of common size, between the expense of maintaining

PREFACE.

v

it in Philadelphia, or in Susquehanna county, will in one year, purchase an hundred acres of land.

That the produce of the farmer in Susquehanna county would sell for double the amount it will bring in the Western states.

That the work of the mechanic is proportionally more valuable.

That all imported articles are cheaper than in the Western states.

That the settlement is removed from all danger, in case of war.

That it has the advantage of provisions, already raised within itself.

That materials for building, and for furniture, are abundant and cheap.

That taxes are scarcely worth naming, and that there are no poor.

That the situation is particularly eligible, from its vicinity to good markets; the soil of a good quality, the water excellent, and the climate healthy.

The Society have laid off ground for a town, on one of the turnpikes, which pass through their purchase. A half acre lot on the turnpike, cleared, will be given, free of all expense, to each of the first

fifty mechanics who shall build a house on the same and commence his trade. Every person in the town is at liberty to build his house or shop on such a plan, and of such a size, as may best suit his convenience or his purse; but as a handsome house may be built at as small an expense as an homely one, the Society require that the fronts of all the houses and shops, &c. erected in the town, shall be built on the designs furnished by their architect, who will be careful to accommodate them to the sum which each person may be desirous of investing in his buildings. The front must be painted. The sides, back and interior, may be finished, or not, as the person concerned shall desire. By this regulation, the Society hope to unite utility and beauty in their establishments. Ground has been given for the situation of public buildings, and a fund appropriated for them, which it is believed will be sufficient for their erection.

It is the wish of the Society to introduce a sufficient number of good farmers, to cultivate the ground in the manner which English farmers are accustomed to, and to settle industrious mechanics in towns, in numbers sufficient to consume the far-

mer's produce. Factors will be established in the cities of Philadelphia and New York, to whom waggons will be regularly sent with such of the manufactured articles as it may be desirable to sell in those places; and for the purpose of bringing back such imported articles as shall be necessary for their consumption. The advantages of such an arrangement for both farmers and mechanics, must be very apparent. Many of those articles of light carriage, on which thousands of mechanics and manufacturers are employed in the metropolis, can be made at the Society's establishment, sent to the city, and sold at a less price than they can be afforded by those who make them there. The superior comforts of the mechanic, who has his own house, his own garden, pasture, and wood lots, over him who is pent up in the city throughout the year, and lives at great expense for house rent, fuel, &c. are very obvious. The manufactured articles disposed of in the country are generally sold at higher price than they bring in the city. But in case of the country being overstocked, the Society contemplate an arrangement with their factors, which will enable them to make advances, if the articles

sent to them shall arrive at any time when the markets are dull, so that the members of the Society will have a further advantage in their sales, over those who manufacture the same articles in the city.

It will be readily seen, that the result of this arrangement must be a good market in the farmer's neighbourhood for all his produce, and the profitable sale of all the result of the mechanic's labour. Instead, therefore, of the necessity of taking to the cities such heavy articles as flour, beef, butter and cheese, they will appear there, metamorphosed into some of the light effects of the mechanic's skill.

If the affairs of the Society shall be conducted with a well-ordered exactness, and if the spirit of harmony shall preside over the conduct of their members, as there is good reason to hope, the Society may look forward with confident expectation to a British settlement of unexampled prosperity, where the farmer's industry, stimulated by exemption from his former burthen of taxes and tythes, shall be rewarded by encreasing comforts, and the consciousness of being able to bring up his children with a good education, and to leave them with ample possessions; and where

each mechanic, surrounded by his garden, his pasture and wood lots, may rival the prosperity and ease of the farmer.

The Society wish sedulously to guard their countrymen from coming to them with the absurd hope of finding a place where idleness may repose itself, while the earth shall produce its fruits spontaneously. They know that many have been led to the United States by such visionary expectations; but such persons they do not wish to see, and would not receive as their associates; the happiness and prosperity of the Society must depend on the industry and general good conduct of all its members.

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LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

British Settlement, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania,
30th Dec. 1818.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

MY last letter was dated at Philadelphia, a short time after my arrival there, and detailed the few occurrences of my voyage, and the favourable impressions which were made by the appearance of that city. You will have seen by that letter, that my intentions with regard to a settlement in the western part of the United States, were much affected by the unfavourable accounts which I had received from some of our countrymen, who had returned from thence, after a journey of nearly three thousand miles, (going and coming) by land. I was, indeed, so disheartened by these representations, that I was almost tempted to commence the practice of my profession in Philadelphia, and give up all thoughts of the country. You will, however, be surprised to find this letter dated from Susquehanna county, in Pennsylvania, instead of Philadelphia, Illinois, or Indiana.

This intention of encountering so toilsome a journey, in order to judge for myself of the "Western Country," as it is here called, was formed very much on the principles of "Hobson's choice;" for in some way, which is to me now unaccountable, we had been led into an opinion, that the only part of the United States for an Englishman to go to, was the western wilderness. Of the error of this opinion I was convinced in a short time after my arrival, by an inspection of the farms in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, and a reflection on the great advantages of vicinity to markets; advantages which I readily saw a farmer must relinquish, who settles in any part of the United States, *beyond the mountains*. At this period, I met with a little work published by Mr. Cobbett, since his last visit to this country, called, "*The First Part of a Year's Residence in the United States of America*," which I send you with this. You will find in it a diary of the weather; together with many useful practical observations, detailed in a plain and easy manner. Mr. Cobbett has shown the advantage of farming *on this side of the mountains*; and while I felt a growing disposition to avoid the *prairies*, or flats, of the Illinois, our friend S—— mentioned to me, that the lands of Susquehanna county, in this state, and within a short distance of Philadelphia and New-York, had been very favourably spoken of by Mr. V——, a highly respected gentleman of Philadelphia, of whose philanthropy and benevolence most of the Englishmen who arrive there can

bear witness. Mr. S—— directed me to a Mr. Young, an Englishman, then in Philadelphia, who had been to what he called Mr. Rose's settlement, in Susquehanna county, and who could therefore give me correct information about it. I called on Mr. Young, and found his account to be very favourable respecting the soil and climate, and that he intended to settle there. Mr. Y. described the land as being of a good quality, the country healthy, the water plentiful and excellent, and the timber of great variety: that there were about five hundred families, mostly from the New England States, on Mr. R.'s tract; a number of grist and saw mills, and four post-offices on it: that Montrose, the seat of justice for the county, was 170 miles from Philadelphia, and, by a turnpike now making, it would be about 130 miles from New-York: that measures have been also taken for making another turnpike in nearly a due south direction to Philadelphia, which will lessen considerably the present distance: that the Susquehanna river was navigable from the vicinity of the tract to Baltimore: the price of the lands on the turnpikes was six dollars, and for those back from them, five dollars per acre; that the title was indisputable, and a deed of general warranty given: that several of the settlers on the tract, who were desirous of getting their neighbours to settle near them, and who were, doubtless, good judges of land, had given a statement of the quality, from which he had, when on the spot, copied the following;

“ We, the subscribers, have purchased farms on the lands of Robert H. Rose. The soil is, generally, of a good quality, deep, and lasting; and the situation very favourable, on account of a market for our produce. (Signed by)

Daniel Gaige, Alpheus Finch, Isaac Howard, Mortimer Gaige, Abraham Gaige, Joseph Whipple, Philip Griffeth, Peleg Butts, Charles Davies, Christian Shillop, Nathan Brewster, John Griffiths, Jonathan Ellsworth, Henry Ellsworth, Jacob Bump, George Bump, Bela More, Joseph Addison, Charles Chalker, Daniel Chalker, Seth Baldwin, Richard Daniels, Ephraim Fancher, Zephania Cornell, Benjamin Fancher, Caleb Bush, Asa Baldwin, Samuel Baldwin, Thurston Carr, Isaac Soule, Hiel Tupper, Jabez A. Birchard, David Owen, Jeremiah Glover, Albert Camp, H. P. Corbin, D. Taylor, Lemuel Walbridge, Leman Turrel, Camfield Stone, Philo Bostwick, Salmon Bradshaw, Billings Babcock, Robinson Bolles, Zenas Bliss, Jon. C. Sherman, Philo Morehouse, Reuben Faxen, Darius Bixby, Asahel Southwell, Asa Brown, Edward Cox, Peter Brown, Daniel Chamberlain.”

All this seemed to be good authority, and as there were at that time in Philadelphia, many of our countrymen, whose object was, like our own, the selection of an eligible spot for their abode, it was thought prudent to call them together, and unite the information we had received of various places,

in the hope of being able to choose that one which would be best for a "British settlement," and in which could be combined advantages for both farmers and mechanics.

For this purpose, a number of persons interested, met at the Chester and Montgomery hotel, in Philadelphia, a house kept by Mr. Davis, an Englishman. The impressions amongst all who met, appeared to be very unfavourable to a settlement in the Western States, in consequence of the various information that had been received, from different sources, as well as from several of our own countrymen, who had returned dissatisfied with the privations of society, and the loss of many comforts to which they had been accustomed, which they found they would be compelled to endure in a settlement there.

At this meeting, it was deemed to be of great importance to find a suitable situation for the contemplated establishment, *on the eastern side of the mountains*, and within a reasonable distance from some of the sea-ports, in which all the surplus produce of the mechanic's labour might be vended, where the toil of the farmer would be rewarded by a good price for his produce, and where, in consequence of the country not being filled with settlers, land might yet be had at a low price.

I found the favourable impression I had of Susquehanna county, corroborated by the information which several who attended this meeting had received of it; and it was resolved unanimously, that

a letter should be written to Mr. Rose, to ascertain the terms on which he would sell his lands to a society of British emigrants. The time that elapsed before the receipt of his answer, was spent by me in endeavouring to add to the information I had acquired of the United States generally, and particularly, in reading the journals of different persons who had travelled over the western parts of them, on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi, to which my attention had been directed previous to my leaving England. I found these, generally, to represent those portions of the country in terms very different from the language of Mr. Birkbeck, whose "Notes" had been, in some degree, the occasion of my voyage across the ocean. On receiving an answer from Mr. Rose to our communications, a meeting of the British emigrants was again convened, and it was determined that a committee of five, (of whom I was one,) should immediately proceed to Susquehanna county, and examine the lands carefully, ascertain the quantity which could be procured, and on their return, make a report of the situation, soil, water, &c. and of the various advantages, or disadvantages, which it would offer to the contemplated settlement. In pursuance of this resolution, we came here, and diligently and carefully investigated the different objects to which our attention had been directed, and which, as you will have perceived, were precisely the same as those on which my instructions had been founded, before I left my native land. The result of the

investigation by the committee was, an unanimous opinion in favour of this place, as affording all the essential requisites for a British settlement.

We were treated with much kindness by Mr. Rose, who was pleased with our objects, which he thought would be very useful to the county, and even to the state; and with this view he gave us a contract for his lands, at a price much below what he had sold for some time past, and lower than any other land is selling in the county. Since his settlement in this county, he has made it a rule to sell to none but actual settlers, and in his contract with us, he has enjoined a perseverance in the same rule, and the obligation, that for twelve months from the date of our contract, we shall keep the land open, on the same terms we received it, for any of our own countrymen who may be desirous of joining us, and who shall bring good moral characters with them. These were precisely the intentions of the meeting in Philadelphia, which in seeking a place of settlement for British emigrants, disclaimed all objects of speculation, and sought only to procure an eligible situation, in all the benefits of which their countrymen might participate. The committee were, therefore, much pleased that Mr. Rose had taken the same view of the subject, and advised the measures on which they had previously resolved.

The following are the terms of our contract, made 15th Nov. 1818, in distinct propositions, with a view either to the whole or a part of the lands, about forty thousand acres, as shall be found most convenient to the society.

For the whole—

1st. Four dollars per acre, [13 shil. stg.] one tenth part paid, and the remainder with interest, in nine equal annual instalments ; or, 2d. Three dollars fifty cents per acre, one fifth part paid, and the remainder in four equal annual instalments ; or, 3d. Three dollars per acre, to be paid within one year.

Or, in parts to suit individual settlers—

The lots on the turnpikes, five dollars per acre : the lots back from the turnpikes, four dollars per acre. Interest to commence at this date, one eighth part of the principal to be paid within twelve months, and an eighth part annually afterwards. If the whole of the price of any lot be paid for within the first year, *an abatement of one dollar per acre to be made.* The society to proceed to settle their members on the latter terms ; but to have the privilege of closing the contract for the whole, should they be desirous of doing so, according to either of the three first propositions ; provided their desire be expressed to that effect within twelve months.

It should be particularly noticed in this negotiation, that we sought the proprietor, and that he neither laid in wait for us, nor did he allure us by captivating accounts of Elysian fields. We found in him a gentleman of elegant manners and known integrity ; who offered the best recommendation of his lands in the simple fact that he had built an elegant mansion in the midst of them, and had resided there for several years.

I shall now proceed to lay before you all the in-

formation that I have acquired respecting the soil, climate, manners, &c. of this interesting section of the United States.

LETTER II.

Selection of Settlement, &c.

IN the selection of a place of residence in a new country, it is very important to take into view the ultimate market for the farmer's produce. While the country is settling, there will be no difficulty on this score; for the encreasing population will demand all the supplies that can be raised. But the prudent settler will look beyond that period, and consider what he is to do, when every one shall raise more grain than he will be able to consume. In that case, vicinity to market, and facility of transportation, are all important. The immense distance which grain has to be sent from the western states, occasions the expense to be so great, as to reduce extremely the profits of the farmer. This is particularly the case in all articles of much weight, and all the farmer's produce comes within that description; so much so, indeed, that on bushel of wheat here, is worth one and a half in the western part of this state, and two, or more,

the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois; the only important market for those states is New Orleans; the distance to which is upwards of one thousand miles from the nearest part of Illinois, and still further from Indiana and Ohio. The value of the different articles in Susquehanna and in the Illinois, will be more easily seen by the following statement of the prices. Those of the Illinois I collect from Mr. Birkbeck's "Notes" on that country.

SUSQUEHANNA.		ILLINOIS.	
	D. C.		D. C.
Wheat per bushel	1 50	Wheat per bushel	0 75
Indian Corn do.	1 00	Indian Corn do.	0 21
Oats do.	0 50	Oats do.	0 31
Hay per ton	7 00	Hay per ton,	7 80
Butter per lb.	0 15	Butter per lb.	0 11
Cheese per lb.	0 10	Cheese per lb.	0 25
Fowls per couple	0 25	Fowls per couple	0 20

The same cause which tends to *lessen* the value of the articles, which the farmer raises in the western states, and which *he has for sale*, operates equally to *increase* the dearthness of those which are imported, and which *he has to purchase*. The shop-keeper, who is at a great distance from the place, where the articles he deals in are procured, will add to the price, when he disposes of them, the additional expense of bringing, and the time lost in procuring them. To him, who is obliged to take a journey of a thousand miles to procure the articles that are to fill his warehouse, the cost and the trouble must be very great; and that cost and

trouble he expects to be paid for, by the consumer. The journey which he is annually compelled to take, is a very serious one, compared to that of the shop-keeper of Susquehanna county, who can go to New-York and back again in four days. The latter, in consequence of his situation, can trade with a smaller capital than the former; because he can, at any time procure a supply of those articles of which he is in immediate need; while the former can lay in a supply only once a year. All these difficulties are to be paid for by the farmers and mechanics, who consume the articles imported; and the difference to them, in the course of a twelvemonth, by *receiving less for the articles they sell, and paying more for those which they purchase*, will be found to be very great. It is not merely the quantum he shall raise, but the sum he shall get for it, which constitutes the farmer's advantage. It is not simply to get enough to eat and drink, that is to bound the desires of the farmer; it is to procure the means of converting his log cabin into a handsome and convenient house; to erect a large barn for his grain, and suitable buildings for his cattle; to educate his children, and, as he grows old, to enjoy the satisfaction of finding that his industry has supplied the comforts of life, and enabled him to satisfy the wants of society—wants to which we are indebted for the amelioration of mankind. Perhaps it is even worse for the morals of the settler, distant from a market where he can exchange the articles in which he abounds, for those of

which he is in want, that he is placed upon a fertile soil. The fertility gives him abundance; and he cannot dispose of his surplus. The consequence is, a want of stimulus to industry. He finds, that the labour of three days in the week, will support his family, and he will not work six; for the produce of the other three will be of no service to him. He cannot build his house, his barn, nor his granary with it. Hence, he becomes idle. He finds neighbours like himself. He takes his gun, and goes into the woods to hunt, or to some neighbouring log house at which whiskey is sold, and where he is sure to find persons in his own situation, led there by the same feelings which govern him; with those he consumes his time, shooting at marks, or matching his miserable horse to run against some other miserable horse; and thus the day, that in more fortunate situations would have been spent in healthful industry, is squandered in riot and intemperance. It is reasonable to expect such consequences to flow from the situations I have mentioned; and such, I have been assured by intelligent travellers, is the case. I do not rest on the narration of our own countrymen, who have returned dissatisfied with the western wilderness. American travellers themselves are obliged to acknowledge the universal prevalence of these ruinous habits. That we should find a proneness to quarrel in minds that have shaken off the salutary restraints of society, is to be expected. Even Mr. Birkbeck, who has been so fortunate as to find quarrelling

rare, mentions the case of a member of a religious community, who, "on being brought before the spiritual court, for indulging a propensity to boxing, and hearing all the arguments derived from texts of Scripture, which oppose that unchristian practice, declared that he should not like to live longer than he had a right to knock down any man who told him he lied." Mr. Schultz, in his description of the country near St. Louis, on the Mississippi, in the immediate neighbourhood of Illinois, mentions that "it is a very unpleasant place of residence, as the continual broils and quarrels amongst the workmen, as well as the proprietors, keep up a constant scene of warfare. You would certainly feel yourself in very suspicious company, were you to discover that most of those amongst whom you were, wore a concealed dagger, and sometimes even two, one in the bosom, and another under the coat; whilst others carried a brace of pistols in the girdle behind the back. I have heard of a number of quarrels since I have been here, and of two or three being wounded by pistol shot, but no lives were lost; which has rather been owing to a precipitancy of firing, than want of inclination to kill. It is not always that an honourable challenge takes place on account of an affront or difference of opinion; but an instantaneous plunge of the dirk, or a pistol to your face, is the first signal of war. They have however become so naturalized to these *ideal dangers*, that of three shots made within two yards of the object,

“ none was followed by any thing more serious than
“ the loss of three fingers on one hand, and a hole
“ through the lower part of the crown of a hat,
“ grazing the skin and hair. This bad, or good
“ luck, is owing to the activity of the antagonist,
“ who is generally aware of his opponent’s inten-
“ tion, and prepared to knock his pistol up with his
“ own, as soon as it is presented. Rifle barrells
“ pistols are altogether used at this place, and
“ likewise at Genevieve ; and pistol shooting at a
“ mark for wagers, seems to be a very general kind
“ of amusement among the people.”

Much more of this kind might be quoted from American authors, and I should prefer quoting from them ; for we cannot suspect them of having any intention to deceive, especially when they speak against the habits of their own countrymen, in particular places ; but I have already adduced enough to convince you that the western part of the United States is a place, if report speak correctly of it, that would promise nearly as much work for a surgeon as a physician. At any rate these representations from so many sources, were sufficient to induce me to set my face another way, and to make me seek to discover a place, where a husbandman might find sufficient inducements to call forth his industry,

“ and hear

At distance safe, the human tempest roar,
Wrapt close in conscious peace.”

This is completely the case in Susquehanna county, where, I am informed, that during the late war between the United States and Great Britain, "its disturbances were known only by the arrival of the mail."* How different is this from the frontier situation of the western states, whose infant settlements are always exposed to the scalping knife of the savages! In my estimation of the advantages which different places might offer to settlers, *security* would be a most important consideration. That desideratum is, I think, possessed in the greatest possible degree by this place, which is equally remote from dangers by sea and by land; being surrounded on all sides by countries thickly populated. A perfect wilderness should be avoided by an Englishman. The Americans alone appear calculated to *commence* a settlement. They make excellent pioneers, and overcome difficulties in the "wild woods," which an Englishman could not encounter. A journey of two or three days to a mill, is nothing to them; even a journey of a thousand miles, is but as

* This remark is quoted from a description of Mr. Rose's possessions in this county, with an engraved view of his mansion, which appeared in "the Port Folio," for June, 1816. This miscellany, published monthly, is edited by J. E. Hall, Esq. and was commenced in the year 1801. It may be procured in *London*, of the publisher of these Letters, and it deserves the attention of an emigrant, on account of its sketches of life and manners and other particulars respecting this country.

a step to visit a friend. It is fortunate for a country, possessing such a boundless territory, the arm of one of whose rivers extends to a distance as great as from my native place to the one in which I am now writing, that her children are of so erratic a disposition, as to consider her amplitude as a narrow limit. But although all this is extremely well for an American, it is much better for English settlers to confine themselves to a reasonable distance from the sea ports; and to endeavour to procure a situation in a country, in which the toils of a first settlement have already been encountered and overcome.

For this reason it is, that my selection has been made of lands interspersed in all directions, with improvements, where good roads are already made, and where grist and saw mills, and other machinery, are erected.

In the immediate neighbourhood, for which the company have contracted, there are five grist mills, and thirteen saw mills. The great advantage of these, and of the roads, which are made in all directions through the lands, I need not mention. The English farmer having been accustomed to good roads at home, can ill brook those which he will find in any wilderness. Here are turnpike roads leading to the two most important cities of the United States, laid out and much labour done on them; and there is every prospect that they will be completed in another season.

There is a point of time in the settling of new countries, in which purchases by such a company

as ours, can be best made. To a *perfect wilderness* there is an objection, in the difficulty and uncertainty of forming a settlement; and many would find it very unpleasant to endure the privations which must necessarily be experienced by a residence there. When nearly all the land is settled, the small remainder is held at a high price; but at an intermediate point of time, when a considerable part of the land is occupied, the quality of the soil, and the real value of the country ascertained, the difficulties of the first improvements overcome, grain raised, mills built, roads made, and the necessities, and many of the comforts of life to be obtained—this is, undoubtedly, the most eligible time for a man to pitch his tent; for the land which has not yet been appropriated, may generally be had at a price very low, in proportion to its real worth, estimated by the farmer's profit,—which is its intrinsic value.

I have mentioned the settlements or improvements, with which the lands contracted for by the society are interspersed. The greater part of these can be purchased, at a fair price, from the present occupants who, being paid for what they have done, are ready to commence anew. It may be better for many emigrants to purchase these improvements, than to take new lands. They can be had in farms of various sizes, from twenty to an hundred acres of cleared land, with a house and barn. These buildings are, in general, made of logs, and when

that is the case, are of little value; but in some instances they are of a better kind, being made of framed timber, and boarded.

The sum at which improvements are estimated, depends upon the care with which the lands are cleared, and the kind of house and barn on them, in addition to the price of the land. As a general rate, a farm of one hundred acres of land, one half of it cleared, with a common log house and barn on it, would be estimated at from 225*l.* to 270*l.* or from one thousand to twelve hundred dollars. This however may alter very soon; and will be likely to increase rapidly, in consequence of our settlement, and the money which will be brought into the country by us. Such is the price at which improved lots (of which I have made several purchases) are at present sold. By the purchase of an improvement, an emigrant will be at once able to keep his cattle and horses; he will have pasture, meadow, and plough land; and can purchase new lands adjoining, and increase his clearings to what size he pleases. In this manner he may commence his farming with very little of the inconvenience, and all the advantage of a new settler; and the new lands which he can purchase on the terms of the society's contract will answer for the establishment of his family around him. I have devoted, and shall continue to devote, much of my time to the acquisition of a thorough knowledge of the extent, quality and value of these improved lots, amounting to several hundreds, in order to point out to those

of our countrymen who prefer making purchases of that kind of property, such as will best suit their different tastes; so that each one may be accommodated in the way he prefers; and I shall spare no pains in the business, for I have the welfare of the settlement very much at heart, which derives the more interest from its being the first BRITISH SETTLEMENT, attempted on a large scale, in the United States. It will therefore be useful for all those who are desirous of purchasing improvements, to make their applications either through the society at Philadelphia, or directly to me at this place. I can then make the desired purchases for them, or provisional contracts, to be ratified within a reasonable length of time, after the applicants shall have seen and approved of the lots.

LETTER III.

Boundaries—Face of the country—Soil—Forest trees—Bushes—Cultivated fruits—Minerals, &c.

SUSQUEHANNA county is situated in the 42d degree of north latitude, on the line which divides Pennsylvania from the state of New York. It commences about six miles from the Delaware river, and runs west thirty-four miles, and south twenty-four miles. On the north it is bounded by the state of New York ; on the south by Luzerne county ; on the east by Wayne county ; and on the west by Bradford county.

The face of the country is very picturesque. There is no flat land ; it is all in undulations. Rivulets and springs are in the greatest abundance.—There is no farm and scarcely a field, without a stream or spring in it of excellent water, and as clear as crystal. There are no stagnant waters, no swamps, nor marshes, nor *musquitoes*, which abound so much in many other parts of the United States.

The soil is deep—that is, generally, from one to two feet ; in some places, three or four feet. Be

neath this, there is an inferior stratum, or sub-soil, composed of clay and extremely fine silicious sand, intimately commingled. By us it would be called stony; but the stones lie almost entirely on the surface, are easily removed, and will be very useful for buildings and walls. I have taken particular notice where trees have been taken out by the root, and at the sides of the turnpike roads where the ditches are dug, that it is rare to find any stones beneath the surface. I am told that some of the settlers from the eastern states, who have been accustomed to stone walls round their fields, say that there are not stones enough; I should be satisfied with less. Of the fertility of the soil, the usual crops offer a strong evidence; for if a farmer in England was to put his grain into the ground, in the manner it is generally done here, I should calculate upon his having a very diminutive harvest. In this country there is little or no alluvial soil deposited by the overflowing of the rivers or brooks. It is a common remark, and it accords with my own observations, that the soil is deeper on the tops of the hills than in the vallies. As it does not wash off, the hills retain all their native fertility. You see no traces, or furrows, worn by the waters. In the western part of the United States, where extensive flats of alluvial soil are formed on the rivers, the hills are proportionably poor, being robbed of the soil, which is deposited on the flat, or bottom. In most of the waters of the western states, during floods or freshets, there is a reflux, or eddy, formed at the margin of the usual

water courses, and the soil brought down from the hills is deposited in the greatest abundance on the bank, which usually confines the current ; consequently, the bank is higher than the land back from the river, where the bottom joins the hill. The result is, that when the river retires within its banks, an extensive, but narrow, pond is left along the base of the hill ; and as the hot weather gradually dries it up, a pestilential miasma is formed, which produces bilious and intermittent fevers, and all their train of horrors. In Susquehanna county nothing of that kind is found. I cannot learn of a single instance of fever and ague having occurred within it. I see no sallow, sickly looking complexions. Every log hut abounds with children, whose brown faces indicate health and hardihood. This is a bad place you will say for my profession. I am very happy that it is so. I came to seek for land ; and shall be more pleased to practice farming than phlebotomy. I do not however, intend to give up my profession till one of my sons shall be able to take it off my hands ; for physicians are necessary evils in all countries.

I have measured many of the forest trees, in order to be exact as to their height. It is, in general, about eighty feet. Many are much higher ; but that is the common altitude. The white, or silver pine overtops all the other timber, and grows to the height of one hundred and fifty feet, and from six to twelve feet in circumference. The hemlock spruce also grows to a large size ; but not so high as the pine. The diameter of the beech is from one

two feet; the birch, larger. Chesnut is found nearly twenty feet in circumference, very straight, and sixty feet to the lowest limbs. White oak, nearly as large. The wild cherry grows large, and furniture is made from it resembling mahogany.—The curled maple affords also a beautiful wood for furniture, of the fine and silky appearance of satin wood. I have observed the following kinds of timber, viz. beech of two or three varieties; sugar maple (*acer saccharinum*) and several other species as the *acer Pennsylvanicum*, *rubrum*, &c.); hemlock spruce (*pinus—abies Americana*); chesnut, different from the English, the nuts small, but very good; cherry of two kinds (*prunus cerasus Virginiana et montana*); white and black ash; oak; white pine; linden (*tilia*); elm; button wood (*platanus occidentalis*); cucumber tree (*magnolia acuminata*); crab apple, dog wood (*cornus Florida*); hickory (*juglans alba ovata*); black walnut (*juglans nigra*); butternut (*juglans oblonga alba*); hornbeam (*caprinus ostrya*); locust (*robinia*); wild gum; poplar; tulip tree (*liriodendron*); sassafras; and service tree (*sorbus Americana*). Among the bushes are blackberries of several kinds, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, elder, hawthorn, laurel, leather wood, (*dirca palustris*); hazlenut, sumach of two kinds, and the rose. You will observe that the currants, gooseberries, and raspberries all grow wild in the woods. There is also a small grape which ripens late, and is acid: perhaps those of a more generous kind would flourish if they were

cultivated. The hills in this country are all covered with timber. You see none bare. Along the Susquehanna river, there is a belt of oak timber which extends back from it for three or four miles; you then pass into what are called *the beech woods*, which are composed of various kinds of timber, but take their name from that which predominates. In the latter the soil is much superior to the former, both as to depth and quality; the oak lands having a thin and gravelly soil, while the beech timber grows in a deep loam. From the ashes formed by burning the timber in their clearings, the new settlers might derive a handsome profit, by the manufacture of pot and pearl ashes; but this is neglected, and the ashes are suffered to be blown away by the winds, or washed off by the rains. Great profit might also be made by the manufacture of sugar, from the sap of the sugar maple;* and it is now made to an extent equal to the wants of the country; but it might be manufactured for exportation. There is a great abundance of the sugar maple in this country, and in Howell's large map of Pennsylvania, this part is designated as abounding in that valuable tree. It is one of the most beautiful of the forest. But notwithstanding its great usefulness, it is cut down indiscriminately with the others. A proof of the advantage that may be derived from it, was exemplified by one of our countrymen whom we found set-

* See the process in Evelyn's "Sylva," vol. 1. p. 188.

tled here. He purchased of Mr. Rose a lot of eighty-four acres, and before he began his work of clearing, he tapped a number of the sugar maple trees on the lot; and the price of the sugar which he made in three weeks, amounted to two thirds of the price he was to pay for the whole lot. This you will observe was done *before a tree had been cut down on the lot*, except what was necessary to boil the sugar. Maple sugar is much like that produced from the cane; but for many purposes I think it pleasanter; and the person who uses it has the satisfaction of knowing that it is clean, which, it is probable, is frequently far from being the case with that which is made by the slaves of the West Indies; or indeed, by slaves any where. The usual time of making it is at the breaking up of winter, when cold nights are succeeded by warm days; a season when there is but little to occupy the farmer. It is not unusual for a family to make half a ton in two or three weeks. The sugar making season seldom lasts longer than that time. One of the first things a settler should do is to plant an orchard, and in a very short time he may eat his own fruit, and drink his own cider.

In all the old settled parts of the United States, fruit is in such great abundance that the traveller is permitted to take, without ceremony, whatever he pleases.

Beer is seldom made or used in the country parts of the United States. We shall, doubtless, introduce it; which may be easily done; for good bar-

ley is raised here, and hops grow wild. Apples, pears, plums and cherries thrive well. Peaches are not so good as in the southern states, although the trees last longer. Perhaps the inferiority of the fruit may in some degree be in consequence of want of care respecting the kind; for I do not find any grafted. The trees are all raised from the stones. However, as this tree was originally brought from a southern climate (*mala Persica*), the presumption is that it finds in Maryland or Virginia a more congenial situation. Susquehanna is in the secondary formation. The stone is principally grey or reddish shistose sandstone, and clay slate, in some instances mingled with a small proportion of calcareous earth; but I believe none has been found in which the latter predominates.

On some of the branches of Wyalusing, one of the streams of this county, there is an appearance of salt; and a small quantity has been made very pure and white. It is supposed, that it might be manufactured extensively and profitably. Some persons are now at work, in digging a well for it on the waters of Silver Creek. The salt at present used here, is brought from the salt works in the state of New-York, a distance of eighty miles to the north of this, where it is made in great quantities, and sold at half a dollar per bushel.

Small specimens of iron ore have been shown to me, and there is reason to believe that more might be found if search were made below the surface. In one place, for more than a mile in extent, the

needle of the surveyor's compass cannot be made to traverse; yet no one has been at the trouble to search for the cause. I do not know of any coal in this county; but near the southern boundary of it, coal resembling the Welch culm, or Kilkenny coal, is found in great abundance.

Susquehanna was formed into a county in 1812, and there are now within its limits, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven taxables; which, at a computation of five and one third inhabitants to each taxable, and which I am informed is a common one, give ten thousand one hundred and seventeen inhabitants within the limits of the county.

From this statement you will see, that you are not invited to a wilderness.



LETTER IV.

Rivers, Streams, and Lakes.

THE Susquehanna river rises in the state of New-York, and runs nearly a south course, till it passes the Pennsylvania line, about twelve miles from the Delaware river. It then turns to the west, and repasses the state line, near the twentieth milestone; and after receiving the Chenango and

Owego rivers, it turns again to the south, and entering Pennsylvania near the fifty-seventh milestone, continues a general south course, passing Harrisburg, the seat of government in Pennsylvania, till it enters into the Chesapeake Bay. In its course it receives several other rivers as tributaries. It is a clear and beautiful river, but rather too shallow when the waters are low. In the spring and autumn, immense quantities of grain, boards, timber, salt, and gypsum, are sent down it to market. There are many flourishing villages on its banks. One of these, called Wilkesbarré, is beautifully situated in the valley of Wyoming, which has been immortalized in the song of one of our poets. But

“ On Susquehanna’s side, fair Wyoming,”

is now so safe from Indian, or any other warfare, that perhaps there is not an inhabitant of the valley, who could be induced to believe that all the powers in the pay of the allied sovereigns could reach it, if the attempt were made in hostile array. On looking at the map, you will perceive that the Susquehanna makes a large bend round this country, from which the streams flow into it in all directions. From a field within half a mile of me, the eye can trace the line of hills the whole extent of this great sweep, which on the north is twelve miles, on the west thirty, and the same distance on the south. The small streams are very abundant;

and there are a number of beautiful little lakes, of various sizes, from half a mile to a mile long.— These are generally at the heads of the streams; where the hills, sloping gradually, form a kind of basin. Their waters are extremely pure, and abound with fish of different sorts, as the trout, perch, pike, sunfish, chub, mullet, catfish, and eel. The rivulets, or brooks, are in the United States called creeks; and in this county their waters are as pure as the springs. Trout abound in them, as may be best seen by the result of a day's fishing with the rod and line, in the outlet of Silver Lake, by two gentlemen, at three different times. The first time, they caught twenty-seven dozen; the second time, twenty dozen; and the third time, thirty-five dozen and an half. If old Walton were alive, this would be enough to bring him to Susquehanna. There is no *hard* water here; every stream will wash; and the thirsty traveller may drink pleasantly of every brook or lake.

It is considered to be of immense advantage to Philadelphia, to draw the produce of the lands watered by the Susquehanna to that city; and different companies have been incorporated by the legislature for the purpose of uniting that river with the Delaware and Schuylkill, which flow by the wharves of Philadelphia. Much labour has been done on a canal, intended to connect their branches; and companies are now engaged in improving the Schuylkill, Lehigh, and different rivers

on the rout, by dams and locks ; which promise to be very successful in their result.

It is not, therefore, by our own labour alone, that we are likely to be benefited ; the legislature, as well as individuals, are actually employed in facilitating the means of transporting our produce to the sea side, from which our distance is now but a ride of two or three days.

LETTER V.

Game.

DEER are very numerous in the woods, and frequently commit depredations on the young grain. Venison, indeed, is so abundant, as to be the cheapest meat here. You will get the best haunches for two pence per pound. Deer are commonly shot with a rifle ball, or chased by dogs ; in which case, it is usual, in order to avoid their pursuers, to betake themselves to some stream or lake. In the latter case, they are easily overtaken by means of a boat. There appears to be a great certainty in taking them, whenever they are wanted, in this way ; for I heard a hunter, whom Mr. Rose sometimes employs, say, that he brought his dog to Silver Lake, twelve times last fall, and each

time caught a deer. There is a good deal of amusement for a sportsman in this watery chase ; but I cannot say I have felt that spirit of " sublime elevation of soul " which we are told, in the Guide to the Lakes of Killarney, induces a thorough bred sportsman there " in his raptures and ecstasies, so far to forget himself, as to jump out of the boat." I am assured that the deer are as abundant now, as they were at the first settlement of the county ; and this is attributed to the disappearance of their enemies, the wolves. Deer usually have two fawns at a time ; and these are so easily tamed, that on being caught when very young, and carried a few hundred yards, they will immediately follow you. The facility with which they are tamed, I should not have credited, had I not derived my information from unquestionable authority.

Bears and wolves, which once were numerous in this part of Pennsylvania, are now seldom heard of. They have retired before the population ; so have also the elks, which once inhabited these woods, as is proved by their immense horns being sometimes found. Foxes are in great numbers, and, as at home, are frequent marauders in the hen roosts.

Pheasants, different from and smaller than ours, are plenty ; partridges are scarce. Wild pigeons commonly visit this place in the spring and autumn, when their numbers are truly astonishing. Flocks of them are sometimes seen, so large as to contain

millions ; their flesh is dark, and when fat, very good. Ducks and teal, at particular seasons, frequent the lakes. Woodcocks are in abundance amongst the bushes. As to hunting, shooting, and fishing, I suppose I need not tell you that they are free to all ; and that the man would be called a great churl, who should forbid any one to catch game on his grounds, or fish in his waters.



LETTER VI.

Clearing of Land, &c.

THE common mode of clearing land in this place, is by first cutting the underwood, or brush, close to the ground. The timber is then cut down, as much as possible in one direction, and into lengths of about twelve feet. A few months after, sometimes immediately after, fire is set to the collected mass, which generally burns up all the limbs and small stuff, leaving the logs. Two or three men then go with a pair of oxen, and haul the logs which are left, into piles. They are again set on fire, and in this second burning consumed. When the timber is cut down, ready for burning, it is called a fallow. The piling of the logs is done during the day, and they are set on

fire towards evening, and generally suffered to burn unattended during the night; at which time the burning piles on several acres, present a very brilliant spectacle; and when seen with the consciousness of this being the first step in the conversion of the wild into cultivated fields, the reflection is attended with no small share of interest in the scenery.

I am surprised to see so little taste shown in clearing land here. No reservation, or selection, is made of groves to serve hereafter, as shelter from the sun, for both man and beast. These beautiful woods are indiscriminately hewn down and cast into the fire; and it is left to another generation to find out the inconvenience of this general destruction of the timber. With a little care in the commencement of an improvement, the most delightful groves could be left, interspersed with the fields; nothing is requisite but *to leave them*. What a treat it would be to a landscape gardener in England, to have such cutting and carving! What would not Price, Gilpin, Repton, or Capability Brown have given for such materials to work with, instead of being obliged to plant saplings for other ages to admire as trees; or what would even your burgesses and freeholders give for such logs of fine timber as are here consumed, to cleave into posts and rails to divide their lands at the enclosure of their hills. The very refuse of an acre would be worth more than is paid for hundreds of acres of the land here.

Besides the beauty of what I mention, much advantage would be derived to the farmer from the practice of leaving groves interspersed with his fields, for the time when timber shall become scarce, as it must in a few years; and the wood be considered valuable as fuel. What delightful avenues might be formed, what vistas cut by the hand of taste! Some traveller describes an American, who, on landing on a part of England or Ireland, which was remarkably destitute of trees, exclaimed, "What a charming country this is, without any woods to intercept one's view!" and from what I see, I am induced to think the story a very true one; for I am sure there are many here that would cry, "how charming the country, if there were no woods in it!" To a new settler the sound of the axe is the cheering indication of comfort and competence; and if idleness, or a fondness for hunting, as is too frequently the case with this class of men, seduces them from their business, in a way which the industrious habits of an English farmer would not allow, it is only one of the many proofs before my eyes, of the ease with which every man may support his family here. The close calculations which an English farmer is obliged to make of the probable result of his labour, appear to these people to be incredible; and they cannot conceive a state of things, in which it is necessary to ascertain the price which grain is likely to bring at the ensuing harvest, in order to know how much rent, per acre, he can afford to give for his farm. Indeed, accuracy of calcula-

tion is little thought of. A common way of purchasing a farm here is this; a person goes to the owner and makes a contract for a lot of one or two hundred acres, to be paid for in a certain number of annual instalments. He has no money, perhaps no kind of property; he goes to work for a few days in the neighbourhood, and with the profit of this he purchases an axe and some provisions. He then begins to cut down the trees on his own lot; and so either becomes the owner of a good farm, if industrious, by gradually converting the forests into fields, and his log hut into a comfortable house and barn, or if idle and a hunter, after a few years, he gives place to one of more application, who performs on the lot that which the first ought to have done. Wherever industry is found here, it appears to be attended with success. I have been particular in asking, as a general question, do you know any industrious, prudent man, whose circumstances are not improving, and I can hear of none.

A few days ago, two men came into Mr. Rose's office. He said to me, "Here are two of my industrious settlers; ask them how they have made out." I did so. One had come into the country three years before; he brought with him about five hundred dollars worth of property, not money, but cattle, furniture, &c.: his farm of two hundred acres, which he has paid for by his industry, and his stock, are now worth three thousand dollars. The other came into the country eight years ago;

he brought with him property worth six hundred dollars; he has also paid for two hundred acres of land, and is now worth five thousand dollars. They had scarcely gone, before a very decent looking man came on some business with Mr. Rose. After it was done, Mr. R. said to him, "Squire Bosworth," (for he had been a magistrate,) "this gentleman is desirous of procuring all the information he can, respecting this county; I believe your circumstances are very comfortable; I presume you were worth but little when you came, and I know you have so much good sense as not to be ashamed of it; tell him how you have prospered here." "You say right," replied the other, "I am not ashamed of having been poor; there is no disgrace in that, when poverty is not attended with bad conduct. I served some time with a blacksmith, before I came here. When I arrived, I had a knapsack on my back, with some clothes in it, and twenty-seven dollars in my pocket. I was industrious, and moderately careful. I have lived very comfortably, and have never denied myself, or my family, any thing in reason. When my circumstances permitted it, I put others into my shop, and attended to my farm and other business. I do not know what my property is worth, but I believe I should not over rate it, to say ten or twelve thousand dollars." I am not surprised that these men, and others like them, should so rapidly improve their circumstances; but that, in this county,

many should be found with such confirmed habits of improvidence, that if the miracle of the manna were repeated, they would scarcely take the trouble of gathering it from beneath their feet. This disregard of the things around them, which is very conspicuous in the characters of many Americans, who appear strongly impressed with the notion of letting the things of to-morrow take care of themselves, is a cause of much surprise to an Englishman, who has found it necessary to exert his faculties at all times to the utmost, to avoid becoming a burthen to the parish. The only difference, therefore, to him, is between having enough to eat and drink, and more than enough—between being above want, and being *far* above it; and he is disposed to join with the enchanter in the Castle of Indolence, and exclaim,

“O grievous folly, to heap up estate,
“Losing the days you see beneath the sun.”

However, this is not to be considered as a general character of the people; and I believe it is less seen in the old settlements than in the new. In the former, there is a pride of property, which does not appear to be much felt in the latter. This feeling stimulates to exertion, and serves in the place of that pressure, that *vis a tergo*, which we receive in Great Britain from our taxes and tythes. I believe there are few who would not think the former the most agreeable. The quantity of land in the farmer's occupation, even in the older settled

parts of the United States, and in the vicinity of the cities, and the high rate of labour, prevent that garden-like appearance, so frequently met with in England; where a man will sometimes pay as much for the manure he puts on his farm, as he could purchase a farm of the same size for in the United States. The culture here is unsightly; but if a foreigner objects to it, the defence of an American is, *look at our exports*. These, indeed, loudly proclaim the opulence of his soil, and the rewards of his industry; and perhaps his statement may be true, that the labour bestowed by their farmers will produce more than if expended in the minute culture of England. Here, a man runs over an hundred acres, in what he calls cultivation, while an English farmer is getting over ten; while one is hoeing his crop carefully, the other passes over it rapidly with the plough; while one is attentively drilling his rows, the other scatters his seed broadcast. To a certain extent, this may be good. It is difficult to say where liberty degenerates into licentiousness; but when I see a woodsman here, extending his clearings beyond his power to keep them in subjection; when he is cutting down trees on the one side of his farm, while he is suffering the bushes to grow up on the other; then, I think, the liberty has grown into licentiousness, and that the plan pursued has ceased to be a proper one. It has been remarked by many, and I think by Dr. Franklin amongst them, that in most of the settlements in the United

States, there are two or three occupants before a permanent settler is found. The first is entirely without property; he comes, builds a log house, clears a dozen acres, and is ready to sell his situation for a trifle, to any one that shall desire it. Such a person at length purchases, makes an addition to his house, builds a barn, and increases the improvement to fifty or sixty acres. Then comes the last, who builds a substantial house, increases the size of the barn and clearings, and leaves them an inheritance of his children. I believe there will be fewer of these changes in this county than common. This will be, in some degree, owing to a better population than is usual in new countries, and to much forbearance on the part of the land owners. Mr. R. has upwards of five hundred families on his lands, very few of whom have paid him any thing; yet he has never brought a suit against any one, however delinquent; and I have been myself a witness of his disposition to find excuses for those who go off in his debt.

I have related the common mode of clearing, by burning the timber in its green state. This is the most expensive way, and generally costs about twelve dollars per acre; which expense, together with all others of sowing, harvesting, &c. is usually more than repaid by the first crop, which is raised in this place without the trouble of ploughing; the grain being merely sowed on the newly cleared ground, and harrowed in. It is surprising to me that the ground, treated in this way, and with all

the roots and stumps left in it, produces such crops as are mentioned here. It surely would produce double what it does now, if it were completely cleared, well ploughed, and cultivated by a good English farmer, in the manner he has been accustomed to at home. The clearing and sowing of new lands is found to be very profitable. In the third volume of the *Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture*, is a paper on the breeding of sheep in Susquehanna county, from which I shall copy a part which relates to the clearing of lands here, and in which results of the clearing, by some of the settlers, are given. The calculation is made on the principle, that every part of the clearing, harvesting, &c. is paid for, and not done by the farmer.

	<i>Dolls. C.</i>
" It is calculated with us that clearing and fencing cost per acre.....	12 00
One bushel of wheat sowed on ditto....	1 50
Harrowing (we don't plough) ditto....	3 00
Harvesting.....ditto....	2 00
Threshing.....ditto....	3 75
	<hr/>
	22 25
The crop may be estimated at 20 bush- els of wheat, per acre, which at 1 <i>doll.</i> 50 <i>c.</i> the price it commonly sells for, be- tween spring and harvest, is.....	30 00
	<hr/>

Dolls. C.

Which leaves a profit (besides paying the above expenses) of per acre	7 75
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I. Swan, I. Hiscock, and A. Pearce had the present season 25 bushels of wheat, per acre. W. Ladd had 33 bushels of rye, L. Moore had 33 bushels of wheat.

Dolls. C.

Swan, Hiscock, and Pearce's crops, 25 bushels at 1 <i>doll.</i> 50 <i>c.</i> would be	37 50
Deduct for clearing ditto	22 25

And they had a profit per acre of.....	15 25
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W. Ladd's crop of rye, 33 bush. at 1 <i>doll.</i>	33 00
Deduct as aforesaid	22 25

And his profit per acre, was	10 75
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L. Moore's crop of wheat, 33 bushels at 1 <i>doll.</i> 55 <i>c.</i>	49 50
Deduct for clearing, &c.	22 25

And his profit per acre, was.....	27 25
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The foregoing statements I have copied, as I have mentioned, from the Agricultural Society's Transactions; and from my enquiries here, I am satisfied of their accuracy. It will be seen from

these, that the profits on clearing land are very great; for, according to the least of those mentioned, the profits on clearing an hundred acres, would be one thousand and seventy-five dollars, independant of the additional value given to the land, by the clearing of it, which would be twelve hundred dollars more, making together the sum of two thousand two hundred and seventy-five dollars, on an investment of two thousand two hundred and twenty-five dollars, which sum was returned in the crop. So that this would give, were it continued with equal success, an annual income of an hundred per cent. on the capital employed. This is a fact with which every settler here appears to be acquainted, and it is the source of their prosperity; and of the great increase in the value of the land in new countries, where the soil is of a good quality, and the situation favourable for the sale of the articles raised.

These calculations are made on the most expensive mode of clearing, which is by burning the timber whilst it is green. A great saving of expense may be made, by cutting down the timber two or three years before it is burnt; in consequence of which it becomes dry, and one half of the labour of burning is saved.

I believe the rent, taxes, tythes, manure, and stock of a farm of one hundred acres, in our part of England, *will purchase double the quantity of land in this country, with one hundred acres of it cleared, and put the same stock upon it.* I have made

the estimate very carefully, so far as it respects the American side of the water : you must be a judge, whether it is so on the English side. I submit both to your deliberate reflection.

Rent, Taxes, Stock, &c. for 100 acres in England.

	£.	s.	d.	Dolls.
Rent,	200	0	0	or 889
Taxes and poor rates,	50	0	0	222
Tythes,	20	0	0	88
Manure,	20	0	0	88
12 Cows,	156	0	0	693
60 Sheep,	67	10	0	300
4 Horses,	100	0	0	444
6 young Cattle,	40	0	0	176
Waggon and Cart,	50	0	0	222
Ploughs and Harrows,	10	0	0	44
Geering, &c.	18	0	0	80
4 Hogs,	9	0	0	40

740 10 0 3286

Two hundred acres of land, one half cleared, with a farm house and buildings on it, would in Susquehanna county,

	Dolls.	£.	s. d.
Cost	2000	or 450	0 0
12 Cows,	240	54	0 0
60 Sheep,	120	27	0 0
4 Horses,	280	63	0 0
6 young Cattle,	80	18	0 0
Waggon and Cart,	222	50	0 0
Ploughs and Harrows,	44	10	0 0
Geering, &c.	80	18	0 0
4 Hogs,	40	9	0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3106	699	0 0
Surplus	180	41	10 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3286	740	10 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Leaving a difference in favour of the Susquehanna farm of forty one pounds ten shillings, or one hundred and eighty dollars. I have omitted the fractions of the dollar in this estimate. I have consulted three English farmers who are here, and who have had opportunities of examining the cattle, and various kinds of stock; and drawing a comparison of the prices of those of the same quality in England. The poor rates and tythes will differ in different parishes. But the best way for you is to

draw up for yourself, a statement of the expenses of the English farm: I will be answerable for the American estimate.

At the beginning of the next year, and every succeeding year of his life, our English farmer has to go over the same weary round of his *rent, taxes, tythes, and poor rates*; while here, the land would be his own. Here he would be the proprietor of a valuable estate, sufficient to maintain him in comfort and competence in his old age, and enable him to establish his children handsomely about him. You will probably be amused at the American tone I already assume; and, indeed, I am somewhat surprised to find myself speaking and writing with such feelings, as I might be supposed to entertain had I resided here for ten years past. But why should I not feel thus? I am among a people essentially English—English in their language and their laws, both, perhaps, a little *purser* than is common in the mother country. Some of these people, it is true, indulge themselves in bitter feelings against our nation, but you may rely upon it that the best men in this country entertain no such sentiments.—On this subject I need only quote the language in which Mr. King, formerly ambassador to the court of Great Britain, concluded a most powerful and eloquent speech in the Senate of the United States, on the American navigation act.

“England,” said this high-minded statesman, “is a great and illustrious nation, having attained

to this pre-eminence by generous and successful efforts, in breaking down the civil and religious bondage of former ages. Her patriots, her scholars, and her statesmen have adorned her history, and offer models for the imitation of others. We are the powerful descendants of England, desiring perpetual friendship, and the uninterrupted interchange of kind offices, and reciprocal benefits. We have demonstrated, in circumstances the most critical, constant and persevering evidence of this disposition. We still desire the impartial adjustment of our mutual intercourse, and the establishment of some equitable regulations, by which our personal and maritime rights may be secure from arbitrary violation. A settlement that, instead of endless collision and dispute, may be productive of concord, good humour and friendship: and it depends on her whether such is to be the relation between us."



LETTER VII.

Houses, Barns, Mills, Fences.

THE first thing that is done by a settler in the woods, is to put up a log house. For this purpose he cuts down trees of a suitable size, and of a length in proportion to the dimensions he intends

his house to be. His neighbours assemble and raise it for him, by laying the logs in a square form with the ends notched so as to interlock with one another; by which means the whole are secured and bound together. The spaces for the doors and windows are then cut through, and the interstices of the logs filled with earth or moss; the boards are laid for the floor, and the chimney built. A house of this kind is made at a very trifling expense. When time and circumstances admit, a better one is erected with framed timber, covered neatly with boards planed and painted. Window-glass is made in a neighbouring county, and costs here about fourteen dollars per hundred square feet.

Barns are usually made of framed timber, and the sides covered with rough boards. A good barn of this kind, fifty feet long by forty wide, and finished with stables, can be built, including the cost of the materials, for two hundred and fifty dollars. The expense of the house will depend on its size, and the work employed on it. The materials cost less than the labour.

Grist mills usually cost from one to two thousand dollars. The stones used are of the kind called pudding stone, which is much inferior to the French burr, or the common English mill stones.

Saw mills, which are extremely important in all settlements, cost from three to six hundred dollars. They are set in motion by water, and use a single

saw, which cuts from one to two thousand feet of boards in a day.

Pine boards sell at the mill for from six to ten dollars a thousand square feet; boards made of the hemlock spruce, about one fifth less; cherry boards, nearly equal to mahogany, sell for fifteen dollars per thousand feet.

All buildings here are covered with shingles.— These are made of the white pine, and are laid on the roof so as to lap over each other, like tiles. A thousand of them, which cover somewhat less than two hundred square feet, sell for two dollars. They form a roof which is very close and impenetrable to rain, but is much exposed to fire. They may, in some degree, be preserved from that element by thick coats of a composition, which is sometimes applied to them.

Fences are usually made, when the land is just cleared, with logs of about twelve feet long, placed in a zig-zag manner, with their ends resting on each other, to the height of five feet. This forms a sufficient fence for a few years, and, at the same time, saves the trouble of burning the logs used for this purpose; but it has a very rude appearance. Those settlers who are somewhat neater in their clearings, split the logs into rails, and lay them up in the same manner as the other, with stakes set at the angles, on which a heavy rail rests to bind the fence together. Even this kind of fence has a very slovenly appearance, and occupies much

ground. A better kind is called post and rail, and is made in the same manner as in our country. All these fences have a very bad effect, in comparison with walls or hedges. But they are quickly made, and if at any time it should be desirable to alter the shape or extent of the field, they can be easily removed. There are materials, however, in sufficient abundance to make the most beautiful hedges. When I cast my eyes on the bushes of the hemlock spruce, it immediately struck me, that they would be the very thing for hedges.

On this subject an American writer makes the following observations: "While my attention was turned to *live fences* on a great scale for our fields, it occurred to me that I had some of the best specimens of hedges in my garden. These have been planted at least sixty years; I have some planted about six years, they are composed of the hemlock spruce of our forests. The old hedges are now as vigorous as they could have been in the first years of their being set out. They are close, strong, and impervious; and never like the cedar, die at bottom. They have out-grown the dimensions in which I formerly wished to confine them; being about six feet in thickness, and five feet in height. These hedges bear plashing, cutting, and clipping, without injury; and nothing of the kind can be neater than their appearance, when newly clipped. They retain their verdure through the winter, far beyond most of the resinous tribe; none

“ whereof are subject to be eaten by mice or other
“ vermin, or browsed by cattle, as the deciduous
“ trees or shrubs. They were planted in a single
“ row ; the stalks about a foot from each other.
“ They permit wearing or training in any way ;
“ being hardy, pliant, and tough. They can be
“ raised with little trouble from the cones. I
“ never saw any other ever-green hedge equal to
“ one of hemlock spruce ; when in blossom, it is
“ the handsomest of all its tribe, the limbs are
“ horizontal ; layers will strike out and fill the
“ bottom.”*

The white thorn is a native of this country, and easily procured. Mr. Cobbett speaks of some white thorn brought from England, which he saw growing near Philadelphia, and observes, that they clearly proved that the white thorn would, *with less care*, make as good hedges as they do at Farnham, in Surry.

* See a letter from the HON. RICHARD PETERS, in the *Transactions of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society*.

LETTER VIII.

Cattle, Grain, &c.

SUSQUEHANNA county is peculiarly well adapted to the raising and fattening of cattle. The grass which is sown, grows abundantly; but the settlers are not careful to procure the best kinds. Almost the only one raised here is timothy, which is of little worth for pasture. Red clover, where it is sowed, grows luxuriantly. The white clover appears to be a natural grass of the country; for although never sowed, it covers every field and road side, where the land has been neglected. No care is taken of the meadows; or rather, no selection of ground; any field, which the cattle are kept from in the summer, becomes a meadow, and will produce about a ton and a half of timothy per acre, at a mowing. It must be observed, that the slovenly mode called clearing, in which neither root nor stone is removed from the surface, (and the beech timber, throws its roots over the surface) prevents the mower from cutting more than two thirds of the crop on the ground. But this he cares little about; for he says, the cattle will eat the rest; but the cattle will not eat the strawey stems of the timothy in the summer time; and the part left, is lost. The cattle here are greatly neglected; but I suppose this must be the case in all new settlements. The cows are seldom put under any shelter during the winter; and it frequently occurs,

the first winter after a man has commenced his improvement, that his cattle are fed principally with the branches of trees, which he cuts down for that purpose, and which they appear to relish tolerably well; this is called browsing.

There appears to be but little difference made between the price of a good and a bad cow. The consequence must be, indifferent and small cattle generally. And yet, here are some fine large oxen, that convince me nothing is wanting but care in the breed, to raise as fine cattle here as in any part of the world. In a newspaper which I picked up yesterday, I saw an account of a cattle fair, in one of the states to the north of this, in which is mentioned the weight of nine oxen, the average of which is 2283lbs.; the heaviest weighed 2784lbs. He who is not satisfied with these weights must be desirous of introducing elephants. Grazing would undoubtedly be very profitable here, if pursued in a proper manner. Large droves of cattle, raised in the northern parts of the state of New York, are driven through this country to Philadelphia, where they are sold to the graziers, and fattened on farms in the neighbourhood of that city; and many of the cattle thus fattened, are sent to the market of New York; where, from that circumstance, I presume they bring a higher price than at Philadelphia. The farms in the neighbourhood of the latter city, sell for one hundred dollars and upwards per acre; and some of the grazing farms on the margin of the Delaware, below Philadelphia, I was assured, had

sold as high as three hundred dollars per acre. Now, as the soil of this country is peculiarly well calculated for grazing, and as a farm here may be purchased for less than the cost of manuring one near Philadelphia, I am persuaded that great profits may be made by the farmer here, following the example of the grazier there, and fattening cattle for the New York market. There can be no doubt of his being able to undersell any rival, in consequence of the cheapness of the land. The settlers here are not yet sufficiently aware of the advantages of their situation, but these must become more apparent as the improvements increase.

In speaking of the sheep of the western country, Mr. Birkbeck says that "there is not a district, "and scarcely a spot that he has travelled over, "where a flock of fine wooled sheep could be kept "with any prospect of advantage, provided there "were even a market for the carcase." This circumstance, which is owing to the flatness of the country, he must have found very inconvenient to an English palate. We, you know, are so fond of mutton, that the phrase "take your mutton with me," has become synonymous with an invitation to dinner. This difficulty cannot be complained of here; for I have eaten as fine mutton in this country as is to be found in any part of England. On praising a quarter of mutton, of which I was partaking a few days ago, I was informed, that the sheep had been taken from among the flock, that usually ran in the woods or roads, without any par-

ticular feeding; and, that the value of the tallow was equal to the whole price paid for the sheep. This, I was assured, was frequently the case.

There is an Essay on the advantage of raising sheep in Susquehanna county, inserted in the Philadelphia Agricultural Society's Transactions, but the limits of my communication to you will prevent my quoting it; however, you shall see it when you arrive amongst us, and eat your mutton with me; which I hope you will relish as much as any essay on the subject. In this place are raised the different kinds of grain which we are accustomed to in England, together with the Indian corn, or maize, which we have not. When corn is spoken of here, this kind is always understood to be meant: Other grain is called by its specific name. Indian corn is planted in hills, about three feet apart, something like our hop yards. Two or three stalks grow in each hill, to the height of six, eight, or ten feet, and bear on their sides, each, three or four ears, nearly a foot long and as thick as a man's wrist, enveloped in a husk. The top of the stalk is surmounted with a tassel, and the plant, when growing, has a very rich and beautiful appearance. The hills are ploughed or hoed. When the ears are in a milky state, before the grain is ripe, they are boiled, and the green corn eaten with butter and salt, is considered as a great delicacy. When ripe, it is ground, and made into bread or cakes; and by some the meal is mixed with rye, and made into bread. Many are fond of the meal boiled to

the consistency of a hasty pudding, and eaten with milk, or molasses and butter. The grain is sometimes ground very coarsely, so as to break it into three or four parts, and used in soups. In this state it is called hominy; or the hull or bran is taken off, by steeping it in a lie of wood ashes. If an American was suffered to preserve only one kind of grain, it would be Indian corn. The stalk and leaves afford an excellent fodder for cattle.

Oats, I believe, are never used here as a food for man. The grain is generally smaller than the English oats; but I have heard of upwards of sixty bushels being raised per acre. I should observe, that the acre here is the same as the statute acre of England, and contains one hundred and sixty perches, of five and a half yards square.

Buck wheat, or French wheat, as it is called in England, is raised on the river hills, where the timber is oak; but the soil in the beech woods is considered too rich for it. The flour is made into thin cakes.

Potatoes are very good here, and considered a certain crop. This root is destroyed by the hot summers of the southern states, and the most farinacious kinds, when taken there, become viscous and watery. A very usual way of raising them here is this, after the timber has been burnt off, a slight hole is made with a stroke of a hoe in the ground, which has never been ploughed; into this a potatoe is dropped, and the earth turned back upon it, In that way it is left to take its chance,

without further notice, till it is time to gather the crop. "What a strange mode of culture!" you exclaim. But an American woodsman would be as much surprised at the nice cultivation of an English farmer, as the latter at the want of care in the former. Our fields would be American gardens. Even Mr. R.'s farm, where one might expect to see more care than is usually found here, has never had a plough in it, until since I came here, when ploughing was commenced by an English farmer, whom he has employed to take charge of his grounds. If this man works the ground in the manner, and with the care, he must have done at home, I think the farm will bring very different crops from any thing it yet has done.

There are three barns on the farm, one of which had been deserted by the former tenant, who found himself unable to get into it, in consequence of the great quantity of dung about it, which had been accumulating since the commencement of the improvement. The first thing that the new farmer did, was to get the dung thrown into heaps. This labour appeared to excite much curiosity in the neighbourhood. "What are you doing that for?" was asked by almost every one who passed. And on his replying, that he intended to put it on the fields, the usual observation was—"Why, now, I suppose that would be worth something if you had it in England."

Notwithstanding all this waste, the American farmer grows rich. Indeed it appears as if all that

a man has to do in order to become so, is to go to a new settlement, where the soil is of a good quality. In that situation, if he can purchase and pay for an hundred acres of land, while it is cheap, and be almost quiescent, merely maintain himself on it, the rapid rise in value of his land, will, in a few years, make him wealthy. This rise of value in land is truly astonishing; and if good selections of situation are made, it appears to be as certain as rapid. Mr. R. sold one hundred acres of land, where Montröse now stands, for one hundred and fifty dollars, and the person to whom he sold it, before the time expired in which he was allowed to pay for it, sold half an acre of the same ground for five hundred dollars. This, to be sure, was a village; but farms rise in value astonishingly. One lot I saw, which Mr. R. sold to a young man for one hundred and fifty dollars, and gave him several years to pay it in. The person who bought it, and who had little or no property, went to work, and by his industry cleared a part, and built a log house and frame-barn on it; and before he had paid any thing for it, sold it for two thousand dollars. I could mention many other instances of this kind, which are very common to those who are industrious and careful. And is it wonderful that such a country should improve and settle fast! What a blessing it would be for the industrious poor of England if they could be transported hither, where there is room for them all and ample rewards for their industry! How cheerfully would they

toil for a competency, when they should find

————— “ O’er their labour, liberty and law
Impartial watch,”

while, instead of their former state of vassalage, they became the independent proprietors of the soil; and that in a country which is emphatically the land of freedom.

It is peculiarly pleasing to see the enlightened policy of Pennsylvania, which has ever been considered as one of the most important states of the union, and which instead of squandering its wealth in the destruction of mankind, is solicitous only for the welfare of its citizens; and directs its revenue and resources to the improvement of its roads, the making of canals, the erection of bridges, and the improvement of the various means of facilitating the intercourse between all its parts. In a pamphlet on the internal improvement of Pennsylvania, lately published, the author shows that this state alone has expended on roads, bridges, canals, rivers, and schools, upwards of *eleven millions of dollars*, and the continuance of the same wise policy is recommended by the present governor. In his address to the legislature now in session, he says “ The revenues will be sufficient to defray the expenses of
“ the government, sustain the plighted faith of the
“ commonwealth, liberally patronize agriculture
“ and education, and aid internal improvements.” Instead of addresses to the Lords and Commons, calling upon his Majesty’s dutiful subjects for new supplies of millions, we find the chief magistrate

of this Commonwealth saying to his fellow citizens, who have been elected members of the legislature by the free choice of the people, "As
" agriculture and manufactures are the great
" sources of wealth, and the only solid foundation
" of our comforts and independence, they are particularly
" entitled to the fostering care of government. The power of cherishing and protecting
" manufactures, on an extended scale, or beyond
" those of the household, directly connected with
" agriculture, belongs more immediately to the
" general, than the state government. Agriculture,
" the basis of manufactures, and the most essential
" of all the arts to the general welfare, is fully
" within the scope of our constitutional powers to
" aid and encourage, and has a strong claim to
" legislative patronage. Pennsylvania, from the
" free principles of her political institutions, her
" genial climate, the fertility of her soil, and the
" enterprise of her citizens, without having received
" any direct support from the government, more
" than the common protection afforded to labour
" and property, deservedly sustains the character
" of an agricultural state. The knowledge, however,
" of the art of husbandry may be improved ;
" and it is not only the interest, but should be the
" pride of the representatives of an agricultural
" people to promote its advancement. Though
" the art may be enlightened and assisted by
" science, it is not from speculations and theories
" alone ; but from various and repeated experiments,
" together with close observations, that a

“ proper knowledge of it is to be obtained. The
“ expense of making those experiments, frequently
“ uncertain in their results, few individuals have
“ the ability or inclination to encounter. It might
“ therefore be advantageous, if the commonwealth
“ were to purchase within her limits, several small
“ farms, embracing various qualities of soil, and
“ place them under boards of managers, or voluntary
“ societies, formed for the purpose, [with directions
“ respectively to make experiments of the effects of
“ the native manure; of the different modes of tillage;
“ of the cultivation of grains and grasses; of breed-
“ ing domestic animals; of rearing fruit trees; of
“ the preservation of fruits, of the utility of newly
“ invented implements of husbandry, intended to
“ facilitate or abridge labour; of the cheapest and
“ most durable mode of fencing; and whatever
“ else may be connected with agriculture; and pe-
“ riodically to publish the result, with observations
“ thereon. The expenses of such establishments
“ would be trivial, when compared with the know-
“ ledge that might be thereby acquired and dif-
“ fused, on a subject in which every citizen is
“ deeply interested. To encourage and stimulate
“ industry, the great spring of the improvement
“ and extension of agriculture, easy and safe
“ channels of transportation for the products of
“ the soil to a certain market are indispensable.
“ By the bounty of former legislatures, and
“ the meritorious exertions of companies in-
“ corporated for the purpose, about nine hun-
“ dred and eighty miles of turnpike road have

“ been completed, and numerous elegant and substantial bridges erected across our principal streams.”

How praise worthy, and yet how unusual, to see the governor of a powerful state directing his efforts to promote the blessings of peace, and the enjoyments of domestic comforts; and instead of a pompous harangue on the destruction of armies, to find him simply observing, “ that in witnessing the protection which every worthy man enjoys in his person, his religion, his labour and his property ; and in tracing the rapid progress of the improvements in the state, a fair occasion is presented to us for mutual congratulations.”



LETTER IX.

Price of Labour.

A LABOURER gets from three quarters of a dollar to a dollar per day ; a carpenter, or mason, from one dollar and a quarter to one dollar and three quarters per day. A dollar will purchase twenty pounds of beef, or sixteen pounds of mutton or veal, or one bushel of rye or Indian corn, or two thirds of a bushel of wheat. Thus, three or four days' works of a common labourer, will supply

him with provisions for a month. Hence it is, that the poorer classes of the Americans live better, and consume more animal food, than any other people of the same description. An English labourer may *sing* about the roast beef of Old England, but it is a dainty which he is rarely permitted to taste. An American labourer may dine on roast beef every day in the year, unless he prefers some other dish. The agricultural exports from Europe, are in general what the persons employed in rearing them *cannot afford to eat*: in America they consist of the *surplus beyond what they can consume*; and the quantity would be immense, if the labouring part of the community here would be satisfied to put up with the same kind of fare, which millions of his Majesty's subjects would be glad to obtain. With you, it is only a privileged class who are born to live on the fat of the land—*fruges consumere nati*;—here the phrase extends to every class. Indeed, this is carried to a very improper and wasteful profusion. I am told that there is not a family in this county, that would use a sheep's head; and of a bullock's the only parts used are the tongue and lower jaw; the rest is thrown away, as is the case with the liver, heart, and feet of all animals. One of our countrymen observed to me the other day, these people are the greatest eaters, and the least workers that I ever saw; I have been in four houses to-day, and I found the men all sitting quietly within, instead of being on their farms at work; and yesterday, when I went to purchase

some meat, I found a man who had just killed *five* fat hogs, and on my offering to purchase some of them, he said, I have none to sell, I want to buy some myself:—his family consisted of himself, his wife, and three small children.

As it is of importance to the mechanics who wish to settle here, to make an estimate of the advantages of the situation, I have endeavoured to do it with all the care in my power. Here are two of our countrymen, one a mechanic, the other a farmer, both have large families, and are men of good judgment. They say that a family may be maintained in provision much better than they were accustomed to live on at home, at an expense of one dollar per week for each grown person ; or rating children in a proper proportion. One of these (the farmer) has his wife, two sons grown up, and four other children, rating the latter as two grown persons, they are altogether equal to six. On these I have made the estimate, and the cost of the same number in Philadelphia.

Dolls.

Rent of a small house in Philadelphia, fit for a mechanic with the above named family	200
Cost of provision on an estimate of two dol- lars per head per week, for one year.....	624
Extra cost of clothing, 10 dollars each	60
10 cords of fire wood at 6 dollars per cord....	60

Dolls. 944

	<i>Dolls.</i>
Amount brought forward.....	<i>Dolls.</i> 944
House rent in Susquehanna county..	24
Maintenance of family at 1 dollar per week each	312
20 cords of wood	15
	<hr/> 351
Difference, or annual saving	<i>Dolls.</i>593

A very comfortable house may be built in Susquehanna county for 400 dollars. I have, therefore, rated the rent at the interest of the principal employed in it; but it must be observed, that in a new and thriving country, all the houses are occupied, and you find none to be rented. You must build for yourself. Supposing the above statement, which I have been careful in making, to be over-rated, then form it on the supposition of a small family, or throw off, in the calculation, one third of the supposed saving, and there remains enough to pay for one hundred acres of land under the society's contract; and that land in three years will be worth double the price we are to pay for it. A few years' *savings*, without saying any thing of *profits*, appropriated in this way, would ensure to the mechanic a valuable farm, and a comfortable retirement from the toils of his business in his old age. Even the author of the *Castle of Indolence*, who speaks in such a contemptuous tone of the "scoundrel maxim" that "a penny saved is a penny got," might be disposed to view the annual saving

of one hundred acres of good land as a very different affair. It is certainly one of great importance in the calculations of the industrious artisan, upon whose labour the comforts of his wife and children are to depend.

The society in their selection of land for a settlement, have had in view the advantages of mechanics, as well as farmers. They have seen the disadvantages which many of the former labour under in the cities of America, where house rent and fire wood are very expensive; and the advantages which would be derived from a situation such as has been chosen, where the country round can be supplied with the work of the mechanics; and any surplus may be sent, at small expense, to factors established in the cities of Philadelphia or New-York. If the work be intended entirely for those cities, when the articles are not bulky, they can be sent from Susquehanna county at a very trifling expense. Let the tanner, for instance, make his estimate at what he can afford to sell leather when he tans it in a place where he may have his bark for the trouble of taking it off the trees, and where the materials for his establishment are all to be had on the lowest terms. Let the shoemaker, who manufactures the leather, estimate the advantage to him, when he gets a higher price for his shoes here than he does in the cities, and if he wanted to send them there, to be sold by wholesale, he can do it, at an expense of perhaps a half-penny per pair. Let the tawer or leather dresser,

and the glover, calculate upon the advantages of establishing these trades where the skins of deer are procured at from three quarters of a dollar to a dollar each, and where, at present, sheep skins are *thrown away*. Let every mechanic, and especially those who manufacture the lighter articles to be sold at wholesale, calculate for himself the cheapness at which they can be made here, and the trifling expense of carriage, if even they are to be sent to the cities, and he will see the advantages of the establishment which we contemplate.

The intention of the society is to lay off a sufficiency of ground, on one of the turnpikes, for a handsome village, and to give, *free of all expense*, a half acre lot, *cleared*, to each of the first fifty mechanics who shall build a house thereon, and commence their trade. And, in order to ensure a sale for all articles manufactured, they will establish a factor in Philadelphia, and another in New-York, to receive and sell, on the most advantageous terms, all articles sent to them. For this purpose regular waggons will be employed to ply between those cities and the society's establishment. In addition to the half acre lot, *given* to the mechanics, and others, lots of from five to ten acres, already cleared, sufficient to keep some cows and a horse if needed; and also wood lots for firewood, will be laid out, and sold at very low rates. And the general arrangement of the village, and the erection of schools and other public buildings, will be placed under the care of the inhabitants of the

village, to be managed in such manner as they shall deem best ; the object of the society being merely to make arrangements for the general good, in the commencement of the establishment.



LETTER X.

Roads, &c.

THERE are several important turnpike roads in the county of Susquehanna, of which one is finished, and the others have a fair prospect of being so, the next season. The one finished is from Newburg, on the Hudson river, to the Susquehanna. On this road the stage passes daily. From the city of New-York to Newburgh, the communication is by a steam boat. In forty-eight hours by this route, a passenger arrives in Susquehanna from the city of New-York. Another road, called the Milford and Owego turnpike, passes diagonally through the county. At Milford, on the Delaware river, it unites with three turnpikes, all leading to the city of New-York, by different routes. On the west it is connected at Owego, with a turnpike which leads to the great lakes. The greater

part of this road is finished, and when completed, it will form the most extensive and important connexion of turnpike roads in the United States; opening the way for the trade and travel of rich and populous districts, with the city of New-York. Another turnpike, which will be connected with roads leading to Sacket's harbour, on lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence river, is laid out, and partly made, from the 28th mile stone, on the state line, to Wilkesbarre; from which place, there is one finished to Easton, on the way to Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia and New-York turnpikes intersect each other at Montrose. The state of Pennsylvania has been very liberal in its grants of money to the making of roads. There are two other turnpikes laid out, but on which the company have not yet commenced their work. The one is from the Newburgh turnpike to Wilkesbarre; the other a short one to connect the Newburgh and Owego turnpikes. Besides these, the state has opened a road which commences in Susquehanna, and extends through all the counties on its northern line. From this statement, you will see how rapidly improvements are made in this place; and as the public attention appears to be much given to these objects of national importance, the connexion by roads and canals, of the different parts of the republic with each other, will be persevered in, till the national enterprise, ingenuity and perseverance, shall have made it but as a step to pass from one extremity of this widely

extended empire to the other. It is readily perceived, that this facility of communication adds greatly to the strength of the nation ; and this government is too wise not take advantage of the means which nature has placed in its hands, to render the country powerful at home, as well as respected abroad.

The common or private roads, made by the settlers, are in general very bad. They are made by cutting down the trees close to the ground, leaving the roots in, which makes them very unpleasant for a horse or waggon ; in addition to which, the depth of the soil renders them very dirty on being much used. But when the roots have remained long enough to be in some measure decayed, it is found to be easy to make good roads, by ploughing a furrow or ditch on the outside and throwing the earth out of it into the middle of the roads. The labour necessary for this, would however be thought too great by Americans, on their first settlement, whose object it is to cut down the trees in order to get scope enough to raise grain for their families, and who are contented with any road that will enable them to get about, until they find the means of support springing from their industry. It is not till the settler begins to feel his abundance, that he cares for the improvement of his roads. The turnpikes which I have mentioned, will open good roads to the cities of Philadelphia and New York ; from the former of which place to Montrose, the capital of this county, it is

one hundred and seventy miles; and from New-York, one hundred and thirty miles. The Susquehanna river, which nearly surrounds this county, offers a conveyance by water to Baltimore; which is one of the best markets in the United States, for the produce of the dairy. Between the Society's settlement and Baltimore *all the land carriage* is from ten to twenty miles.

It will be useful here to mention the roads by which settlers had better come to this county from Philadelphia or New York, which are the usual landing places for emigrants, one of which you will endeavour to arrive at. From Philadelphia the road is by Bethlehem and Wilkesbarre, unless you take the stage, in which case you go by Easton. From New-York, the best way is to go by steam-boat or other vessel, to Newburgh, from thence by a turnpike, which is finished, you come to within ten miles of Montrose.

In the winter, if the steam boats are prevented from passing by the ice, the best way is to come from New-York by Easton and Wilkesbarre, to Montrose. The stages now come to within ten miles on the north, and twenty miles on the south, and I expect by next season, they will pass by Montrose in all directions.

The society have desired me to answer all letters that shall be written to me on the subject of the settlement, which I will do very cheerfully, as well as give every aid in my power to all our deserving countrymen, who wish to join us. Letters

should be directed to me at *Silver Lake, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania.*

LETTER XI.

Taxes.

THERE are *no state taxes* in Pennsylvania. The funds of the government are sufficient, not only to pay all the expenses of her legislation, judges, &c. but to enable her to contribute largely to the making of canals, roads and bridges, the erection of colleges and academies, and various other improvements throughout the state. The only taxes paid here are two; a county and a road tax. The former is raised for the purpose of paying the fees of juries, the expenses of laying out roads, and some other trifling county expenses, and seldom exceeds one dollar on an hundred acres of land.

You will observe that the coins used here, are dollars and cents, the dollar being equal to four shillings and six-pence sterling, and the cent a small copper coin, one hundred of which are equal to one dollar; each cent therefore is about an halfpenny. The road tax is for the purpose of opening and improving the common roads, and is

about the same in amount as the county tax. The county tax is levied by three commissioners appointed by the people to superintend the affairs of the county, one of whom is chosen annually. They each serve three years. It is their duty to estimate the probable expense of the county for the ensuing year and to levy a tax accordingly. The roads are under the inspection of two supervisors, chosen annually by the people of each township. Their duty is to open the roads, and to keep them in repair; and for this purpose they have the power of levying the tax which I have mentioned. This tax is paid by labour, and is so far from its imposing any burthen, that in some townships the settlers have voluntarily doubled the amount of labour which the law permitted to be imposed upon them.

I have mentioned these as being the only taxes; an act of assembly provides that overseers of the poor shall be annually elected in the respective townships and boroughs; but this is useless where there are no poor. I say *no poor*, for Mr. R. who is the largest proprietor in the county, and whose lands extend into eight different townships, informs me, that all the poor tax assessed on him during the nine years which he has resided here, amounts to but six dollars and ninety eight cents, and this was for the purpose of conveying a person, not an inhabitant of this county, home. When you look over your list of taxes, how many will you find omitted here? What a glorious country

this would be for some of your financiers to commence their operations in! What a crop they might reap, if the American citizen would suffer them to put their sickles into the harvest!

The people here listen as to a romance, when I tell them of our tythes, poor rates, window tax, horse duty, dog tax, game laws, excise laws, &c.&c. Or when I say that a farmer in England is not suffered to make his own soap and candles, distill his own spirits, make his own malt, or grow his own hops, without being taxed for it.

And yet the editor of the *Courier* tells the people of England, "*the thinking people of England,*" that America is heavily taxed; that New-York is full of distressed poor, &c. There are doubtless poor in New-York, as there must be in all cities, but as long as a man able to work, can earn one dollar per day, and obtain a bushel of rye, or Indian corn, or 20 pounds of beef, for that dollar, I ask how can that man be poor. A labourer in this country can always have six days' work in the week, for which he will receive six dollars: in England probably he cannot obtain more than two or three days' work in the week, and he receives perhaps 1s. 6d. per day. How great the contrast! Would an industrious English labourer complain of poverty, if he could earn twenty-seven shillings per week; and buy his provisions at the above prices, and that in a country where he could buy good land at or under a pound per acre! would he complain? No. The question is, how long he

would continue a labourer. He would soon become a proprietor; he and his family would be rendered comfortable in his old age, without the unpleasant reflection of becoming a burthen to the parish.

This same newspaper tells "the people of England" that the revenue has increased three millions sterling, this last quarter. How many poor wretches have suffered for this increase, I leave you to judge, who are in the centre of taxation.



LETTER XII.

Climate.

THE winter here is cold, keen, and dry. This last particular is a great advantage, both for health and labour; nothing is more disagreeable than that kind of weather, in which snow, sleet, and rain are all mingled. Here the winter snows usually commence about Christmas, or New Year, and continue on the ground till the beginning of March; forming an excellent defence for the roots of the grain and grass. Little or no rain falls during that time; and then it is that the farmer threshes out his grain, and takes it to market. This is usually done in sleds or sleighs, which are much

easier for the horse, and pleasanter to the rider, than waggons. It is also the time of visitation and hilarity. People then visit their distant friends or relations; and a sleighing frolic is highly delightful to the younger part of the community. You are driven along like the liquid lapse of a boat down the stream, or the transition of Milton's Angels, "smooth sliding without step;" at least so it is described to me, who have not yet had an opportunity of enjoying its pleasures. The summer is much warmer than in England, or there would be no Indian corn, or maize; a most important grain, the growth of which *Arthur Young* considers the test of a good climate. It is not, however, so hot here as at Philadelphia; and still less so than in the unsheltered plains, or flats, of the south western states. I am told, that no day is too hot here for a man to work in the harvest fields; and if so, I am sure I shall never object to the sun-beams on my hay or corn.

In consequence of the southern latitude of this place, the difference in the length of the winter and summer day, is not so great as in England. The summer day, being here, one hour and forty minutes shorter, and the winter day one hour and thirty minutes longer than in England.

In Mr. *Cobbett's* publication, which I send, you will see his diary of the weather during the last year. The weather you will find mentioned there, is, I have reason to think, very much like what is experienced here. You will remark, that he pre.

fers the weather of this country to that of Great Britain. It has been observed in all countries that the winter becomes milder as the forests are cleared away. Virgil, Horace, Pliny, and Juvenal, all speak of the ice in Italy in their day; and the rivers of ancient Gaul were as much frozen in the time of Julius Cæsar, as the American rivers are now.—From the enquiries which I have made, I believe the length of time the farmers fodder their cattle here, to be much about the usual time we have for the same business in England. The spring commences sooner in England than it does here; but the grass grows with more rapidity in this country than in that, when the winter is gone.

From an examination of meteorological tables, long kept, it appears that more rain falls in the United States, in a year, than in Europe, during the same time; but there are not *so many* rainy days here; in other words, less of mist and vapour. The spring much resembles our English spring, where in spite of all that is said or sung by our Poets, it very frequently happens, that

“ Winter lingering chills the lap of May.”

When the spring commences here, the influence of the sun, in consequence of the more southern situation, is more decisive than in England. The American autumn is much finer than in our island; and there is none of that misty, foggy, raining, soul-subduing weather, over which all the blue demons hover, like an assemblage of Fuseli's nightmares; and to which some Frenchman alludes,

when he begins his romance with, "It was in the gloomy month of November, when Englishmen hang themselves." Here the sun is bright and beaming, and the November which I have passed here, was as fine as an English September.

I was desirous of procuring a statement of all the births and deaths which had occurred in this township (Silver Lake) since its first settlement, but as no such record had been kept, and as the early settlers are little careful to remember these events, I found this impossible. My next attempt was to learn who amongst all the heads of families had died within that time; and in this I was more successful. Mr. Bliss, the near neighbour of Mr. R., a very respectable man, and a magistrate, was the earliest settler, after him, in the township. He assures me, that among the heads of families only one had died since the first settlement, which was nine years ago. There are now seventy families, or one hundred and forty heads of families, settled in the township. As the increase of settlement has been pretty regular, it would be fair to suppose this equal to the residence of half that number for the whole time; or seventy multiplied by nine, which would give 630 for one year. Now, it is calculated in Europe, that of one thousand persons living in large cities, thirty-five or thirty-six die annually; and in country places, twenty-eight or thirty die out of that number, in the same space of time; while, according to the above statement, the deaths in this township have been only as one

in six hundred and thirty. If it be said, that in this estimate of from twenty-eight to thirty deaths happening in a thousand, it is meant to be extended to young and old, of whom, indiscriminately, more would die than of heads of families, taken at the most vigorous period of life; then, let us make an estimate on that ground, and take thirty as the age to make the calculation on. A person of thirty will, probably, live thirty-two years; divide six hundred and thirty by thirty-two, and we find the chance is, that twenty will die in a twelve month out of that number. According to Dr. Price's calculations of life, the chance of a person thirty years, old is twenty-three years and six months; which would give nearly twenty-seven deaths in six hundred and thirty; while here there has been but one death. This is a very surprising statement; but I am well satisfied of its correctness. Indeed the aspect of the country gives promise of its healthiness:

The fountain's fall, the rivers flow,
The woody vallies, warm and low,
The windy summit wild and high,

all so opposite to the stagnant waters, and dead levels of the western "prairies," indicate the purity of its streams, and the salubrity of its air.

Its exemption from musquitoes, is indicated by its freedom from the "green mantle of the standing "pool," so common in the western countries, whose

mosquitoes and frogs chase sleep from the eyes of many a weary traveller.

“ *Mali culices ranæque palustres avertunt somnos,*”

unless they are grossly misrepresented by many of our disappointed countrymen, who, “ through brake, through bog, through bush, and through brier,” have plodded to those distant regions, in search of a new Utopia, and who, on their return, spoke of the mosquito’s buz in a tone which would justify the exclamation of the poet,

Hark, his shrill horn its fearful larum flings!
I wake in horror, and dare sleep no more!

But though this tormentor is diminutive, he is not the less to be dreaded; besides his buz and bite, his presence indicates the neighbourhood of the pestilential marsh, from which he sprang. The number of mosquitoes, that I was assured I should meet on the western waters, was a strong inducement for me to turn my course to a higher and drier country, in which I and my friends might hope to forget the toils of the day in tranquil repose.

In the commencement of the French Revolution, Brissot was sent to the United States by some of his co-patriots, to select a body of land for them to settle on, if they should be so fortunate as to keep their necks from under the national axe.

They desired him to be particularly careful to *avoid every place where there were mosquitoes*. However visionary they were in some of their instructions, there was much sound sense in this caution. I do not know whether Brissot found what he sought. Instead of remaining here in safety, he returned to France, and was sent to the guillotine, by the sanguinary demon who “rode in the whirlwind, and directed the storm” of the revolution, at its most desolating period. Alas! the sound of the toscin was worse than even the buz of the mosquito, and the axe’s edge sharper than its bite. A strongly marked passage in the letter of instructions given to me by my friends in England is—
 “LET NO CONSIDERATION TEMPT YOU TO
 “SELECT AN UNHEALTHY SITUATION.”—
 This appears to me to be decisive against a flat and low country.

Volney, who travelled through them, speaking of the flat countries in the western parts of America, says, “Autumnal intermittents prevail to a degree scarcely credible. In a journey of seven hundred miles, I scarcely found twenty houses free from agues and fevers. All the banks of the Ohio, and a great part of Kentucky, of Lake Erie, the Genesee country, and its lakes and rivers, are annually infested with them. In a journey of two hundred and fifty miles, from Cincinnati to Detroit, began on the eighth of September, in a company of twenty-five persons, we did not encamp one night without one, at

“ the least, of the party being seized with a per-
“ odical fever. At Greenville three hundred per-
“ sons, out of three hundred and seventy, were
“ sick of fevers. On arriving at Detroit, only three
“ of our party were in health; and on the ensuing
“ day, our commander, Major Swan, and myself
“ were both seized with a malignant fever. This
“ fever annually visits the garrison of Miami Fort,
“ where it has more than once assumed the form
“ of yellow fever.” Those who are most inter-
ested in giving a favourable report of the western
country, cannot avoid its unhealthiness being dis-
covered. I have before me a publication by a
Mr. Latham, who keeps an office for the sale of
land in Chillicothe, in the state of Ohio, dated on
the 2nd of November last. He is anxious to in-
duce settlers to purchase lands there, and, conse-
quently, may be supposed to be inclined to think
as favourable as he *can* of the climate, and to
speak as favourably as he thinks. At least he who
acts as an auctioneer, will not display the worst
side of his goods. Mr. Latham says, “ If we have
“ any diseases which we may consider endemical,
“ they are those of a bilious and febrile character.
“ In the first settlement of this country bilious and
“ intermitting fevers are not unfrequent. The
“ cause is obvious: the people in most instances
“ locate themselves on the borders of the streams,
“ often subject to inundations, and perhaps in the
“ immediate vicinity of stagnant ponds of water,
“ or wet marshy ground, and they mostly lived in

“ open cabins, exposed to the damp night air.
“ In such situations, and under such circumstan-
“ ces, it was hardly possible to escape a ‘ season-
“ ing.’ On the contrary, when emigrants have
“ selected scites for their dwelling on eminences,
“ or on high and dry land, removed from the in-
“ undated bottoms, from ponds of stagnant waters,
“ and from wet marshy ground; and have not
“ unnecessarily exposed themselves to the damp of
“ the evening air: during the summer season there
“ are but very few (if any) instances which are
“ referable to climate.”

The bilious and febrile diseases which Mr. L. mentions as endemic, are those to be most sedulously avoided. They are, necessarily, attendants on those situations which border on the streams subject to inundations; or those which are in the vicinity of stagnant ponds and marshy grounds. These are so common in the western states, that a “ *seasoning*” is spoken of as such a matter of course, that to have any chance of avoiding it, it is necessary to seek out *particular situations*, and even then the poor settler must be careful to avoid exposure to the “ damp of the evening air during “ the summer season.” Is it expected, that in the most healthy parts of Ohio, a settler, must, after dusk, confine himself to the house? If so, the condition of the inhabitants of that part of the country must be very deplorable. And if Americans themselves are so likely to undergo the “ *seasoning*,” what might not an Englishman dread!

But this exposure to bilious fevers is far from being confined to the lands watered by the Ohio; it extends, with few intermissions, along the Mississippi to its entrance into the Gulf streams, in consequence of the flat and marshy state of the country on its banks. Mr. Schultz, a very intelligent traveller, himself an American, speaking of the Walnut Hills, says, "the men generally had a sickly appearance, but the women and girls looked fresh and sprightly. From their own account, however, they considered the situation as unhealthy. If this is the case, it is my opinion that there is not a spot on the whole Mississippi, below the mouth of the Ohio, fit for the residence of man." And in a late work on Louisiana, by Mr. Breckenridge, of the Maryland legislature, this gentleman observes: "The settlements of this territory have, in some measure, attained the character of being unhealthy. It is a prevailing notion, that to be sick the first summer is what every settler must expect. In some parts of the territory, this *seasoning* is severely paid; but in other parts of the territory, I can say with confidence, that not more than *one tenth* undergo it. From the first of August to the last of September, is considered the most unhealthy. The last season was uncommonly unhealthy throughout the western country, and this territory experienced it in a degree not much less than many other places. The natives and the oldest inhabitants were attacked, as well as strangers. This season did

“ great injury to the commencing emigration to
 “ this country. Many who had suffered retired
 “ from it; and others who had determined to
 “ come, changed their minds.” What must we
 think of a situation where an apologist for the
 territory is obliged to concede, that *in the most
 healthy parts of it*, one tenth of its settlers have
 to undergo what he very ominously calls a *season-
 ing!* somewhat more serious than that of Cole-
 man’s “ fat single gentleman.” If the natives of
 the western states, and even those born in the
 “ western country,” experience the ill effects of
 the unhealthiness of the climate, how much more
 are they to be apprehended by a foreigner. But
 in some parts of the United States, idleness is
 considered so great a blessing, that I am not sure if
 many would not purchase it at the expense of a
 bilious or intermitting fever. How strange it is,
 that the father of a family will take that family to
 a situation where he knows they will be exposed
 to an enemy, against whom here can be no pro-
 tection! One would suppose that such a person
 must believe firmly in the fatalism of the Turks,
 which induces them to die of the plague by thou-
 sands, rather than use the salutary precautions of
 their Frank neighbours. *Is the country healthy?*
 should be the first question of an English settler,
 when about to establish his habitation. *Is the
 water good?* should be his second. Wherever the
 country is flat, the water must be stagnant, and
 consequently impure. Wherever the water is im-

pure, the country must be unhealthy. If the pain of sickness could be disregarded, the advantages of health are all important to the farmer. Of what use is the greatest fertility of soil, if he is too ill to sow his grain! Of what advantage is the most abundant crop, if his debility prevents his taking hold of the sickle! And yet, his own sickness is but a part of his sufferings: his wife and children have also to participate in the dangers and diseases that pervade his abode.

In the country in which we have fixed ourselves, we have a good soil, pure water, and a climate which accords well with an English constitution. We have therefore only to use that industry, which English farmers boast of possessing at home, and we shall hope to contribute in some degree to the abundance of the country of which we have become citizens, and by doing so to give a stimulus to some of the many shuttles and hammers of old England!



LETTER XIII.

Manners, Religion, Politics.

You will expect me to say something of the society and manners of the people among whom you are invited to reside. This is a more difficult task than that of analysing the quality of the soil, or classing the varieties of the timber. Many of our

countrymen ridicule the manners of the higher classes of the people of the United States, with a view I believe of having it supposed that they moved in a superior station at home. For my part, I have experienced much politeness and urbanity; and so far as my testimony will go, it is in favour of the frank and courteous demeanour of the gentlemen of this country; among whom there is to be found an abundant share of good sense and *liberal feelings*.* As to the “*very learned*,” they are not to be expected to abound here, as in Europe, where learning is a trade, which numbers are brought up to. The Americans suffer us to manufacture books for them, as well as the cutlery and cottons which they consume. But although they write little on general topics, they read much; and you see no house without books in it. I was pleased to find in this new township a public library, which was commenced by a donation of books from Mr. R. and some of his friends, and is supported by a small annual contribution from those who enjoy its advantages. An institution of this nature is peculiarly advantageous to youth, among whom I have always obser-

* In corroboration of this remark, Mr. Hall, whom I have already mentioned, permits me to extract the following passage from a letter which he received from Lord Selkirk, dated Huntingdon, 8th June, 1810:—“It is truly gratifying to a Briton to find that the most estimable part of your nation are those who are the most partial to the land of their ancestors.”

ved that a taste for reading is very generally attended with propriety of behaviour and sound morals.

I had formed an erroneous opinion of a woodsman. I expected to find rude manners; but the people here behave with great civility and propriety. I have not heard a single instance of profane language, or indecent expression, in this settlement. An air of comfort pervades the habitations of the humblest kind; and in general, the demeanour of the wife shews her to have her full share of the family controul. These people are almost all from the New England states; by which name is designated the section of country north and east of New York, which has always been remarked for the enterprise and good moral conduct of its citizens. To the inhabitants of this section of the United States, who are also distinguished by their shrewdness, the term Yankee is applied; and not as it is understood in England, to all the states—a Yankee, therefore, means a native of New England. The civility of disposition in which they are educated at home, is taken abroad with them; and they are said to form a class of settlers far superior to those who emigrate from the southern states to the western wilderness.

As the means of supporting a family are within the reach of every one; people here marry young, and look out for habitations afterwards. They display a very commendable attention to the education of their children, and as soon as half a dozen houses

are built in a new settlement, a school is established, where, in the summer, the younger children are taught by a girl; and in winter those that are somewhat older by one of the settlers, who takes upon himself the task of school-master. All can read, write and cypher. The equality of rights which they possess, naturally produces an equality, or similarity of manners; and as they enjoy the same latitude in religion as in political opinions, there is, so far as I have observed, very little discord between the various sects. What a happiness it would be to the world, if all who read the exhortation of the apostle, to Faith, Hope, and Charity, would impress upon their minds his declaration, that the greatest of these is Charity; and the necessity of "avoiding foolish questions" and genealogies, and contentions and strivings "about the law;—for they are unprofitable and "vain!" and yet, although this is said by one of the greatest of the apostles to a bishop of the church, I fear it has often been overlooked, and its meek and Christian spirit neglected.

In this township there is no minister yet established. It is customary for the settlers to assemble on Sundays: prayers are said by some one, with much apparent devotion; a hymn or psalm is sung in parts, for most of them have been taught psalmody, accompanied by instrumental music, as a violincello, flutes, &c. A sermon from some approved divine is read; and I must say, that this simple family worship has effects upon me, as powerful as a discourse in a cathedral.

No slavery is permitted in Pennsylvania; the toleration of which in the southern states, is of incalculable mischief; and it is an evil which it is extremely difficult to get rid of; for even those who are opposed to slavery, dread the effects of an universal emancipation of the blacks. A society has been established by some of the most distinguished men in the United States for colonizing them, from whose efforts much may be hoped.

In the country robberies are almost unheard of; and when they occur in the cities, they are generally found to be committed by some abandoned outcast from Europe, whom justice has driven from her shores. It is a fact, that of the criminals in American courts of justice, a very great proportion are foreigners. Indeed, an American to whom the means of support are abundant, has no excuse for being a knave.

Mendicity is so rare in this state, that from my landing at Philadelphia to the present time, I have not seen a beggar. Perhaps no better proof can be given of the general prosperity of its inhabitants.

The native Indians of this country are said to have a great capability of action, but to be much addicted to idleness. I cannot help thinking this a part of the character of the people whom I am among. I find a man, whose enterprise has led him from the home of his parents, many hundred miles into the forests, to make a home for himself; but after cutting down a few trees, that he may enjoy the rays

of the sun, he contents himself with the exertions he has made, and sits down to bask in its beams. Here are persons capable of any thing, but the steady plodding labour, so necessary for the prosperity of the farmer, or mechanic. This may in a great degree, arise from the want of an early application to one particular pursuit. Every one chooses his own occupation, and is any thing, or nothing, just as it happens, or inclination leads. The result, however, of this laxity of discipline, is a far greater degree of *general knowledge*, than can be found among the same class of society, in any other country.

On the subject of politics but little is heard out of the large cities. In all popular governments there must be some who are striving to get into place, and others who are endeavouring to retain it. There will, therefore, be collisions; and where the press is free, we may expect altercation between adverse parties. Of this we have abundant evidence at home. While Buonaparte swayed the French sceptre, the parties in the United States were violent, and ranged themselves under the name of federalists and democrats; the one being stigmatised as an English, the other as a French faction. They are, however, both Republicans, and differ only in a slight degree in their opinions on the administration of the government. The federalist advocated a navy, for the support of the commerce of the country; a small body of troops, to garrison the forts on the frontiers, as a security

against Indian incursions ; and a direct tax, competent to sustain the expences which these establishments require. The democratic party opposed these. But the late unfortunate war between our country and the United States, destroyed all political differences and harmonized the parties. All now appear to be convinced of the necessity of a navy, as a guard for the ocean frontier ; and of a body of troops, as a barrier against the Indian depredations, on the side of the woods. It was found that calling a farmer from his plough, and making him march to the frontier, was a most expensive and oppressive mode of defence ; and against an enemy invading on the sea side, the militia of the country could be of little service. A thousand regular troops conveyed in transports, that one day could make their attack in one place, and in a week's time could attack in another, a thousand miles off, could keep an hundred thousand militia in employ, at an enormous expense to the government. I believe all parties unite now in one sentiment, as to the best modes of offence and defence ; and that there is no back-woodsman to be found, who is not aware, that it is cheaper and better for him to pay his proportion of the expense of a sailor's maintenance, than to turn out with his rifle, to defend the sea board against the attack of line of battle ships. The perfection to which the Americans have brought their naval armament, has been seen with surprise by all the nations of Europe, and is a necessary

consequence of their activity and extended commerce.

The success of most of their different combats against our vessels of war, has also tended to make the navy a favourite with the people; and the merits of their victorious officers have been industriously proclaimed by public dinners and entertainments, songs, speeches, &c. Their portraits adorn the public offices, splendid swords and medals incite their emulation, and the freedom of the city, immortalizes their achievements. You will remember the mortification we used to feel, at reading the accounts of the capture of our ships of war, and the great unwillingness with which we gave credit to the facts, but I can now readily see the causes of our defeats, and should be surprised if such had not been the result of the different actions. The American ships are larger than ours of the same grade; in most instances they have had a greater number of guns; and in all cases, were manned with selected crews. Many of the sailors on board American ships are British subjects, and of whatever country they may be, they have all gone on board voluntarily—for in this country our disgraceful system of impressment is unknown. We opposed all these advantages, by ships of a less size, fewer guns, and smaller crews; and even those in most instances, were composed, in great part, of persons who had been compelled to serve. In such cases the result must ever be as it was. Wars are always unfortunate, and disaster-

rous; but they are particularly so when they occur between nations of the same language, religion, habits and morals. The Americans deserve great credit for the urbanity and kindness which they displayed after victory; and this was not confined to the officers, but extended to the rough tars, whose hearts melted at the sufferings of their foe. When the *Peacock* was sunk by the *Hornet*, and the crew of the former vessel escaped with nothing but their clothes, the sailors of the *Hornet* presented each man with another suit from their purser's stores. When the captured crews were landed on the shores of the United States, they were in many instances, permitted to mingle as they pleased with the citizens, and to become citizens themselves. The crew of the *Guerrier*, captured by the *Constitution*, was landed at New London, and many of them proceeded immediately into the country, and became farmers or labourers of different kinds. A gentleman who was at New London at the time they were landed, met a dozen of them some miles out of town, proceeding merrily along, with their bundles on their backs; he asked them where they were going: "to see our uncles," said one of them laughing. Indeed, I fancy they found more "uncles" in this country, if hospitality could create a relationship, than they left behind them in Old England. Is it any wonder, therefore, that our sailors should not fight with their accustomed spirit against such a country as this; when they felt that a defeat might bestow

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upon them an invaluable blessing, by, placing them on a soil which is emphatically the land of freedom?

The versatility of disposition and facility with which an American passes from one thing to another, has been remarked by every one who has visited their country. The ploughboy becomes a lawyer; the doctor, a divine; the mechanic, a member of Congress; the school-master, a statesman; the merchant, an ambassador. This versatility is very conspicuous in their naval officers. Captain M'Donough, who took the British fleet on Lake Champlain, was a merchant; Capt. Lawrence, who in the sloop *Hornet* sunk the *Peacock*, was a lawyer; Capt. Jones, who in the *Wasp* took the *Frolic*, was a doctor; and probably, most of the others commenced with some business or profession equally discordant to their present pursuit.

If this occurs in the navy, you may readily expect to find the same thing taking place in the army. The most decisive action in the late war, and the one that we had the most signal cause to lament, was the battle of New Orleans, in which the Americans were commanded by General Jackson, who was a judge, and who left the bench to assume the General's truncheon.—What would be thought of one of our judges, throwing off his robes and wig, and offering to head an army? When the frontier inhabitants were scalped and tomahawked by the savages, of whose merciless ravages an Englishman can

form, no idea, unless he will imagine his own family exposed to a troop of wolves or tygers, infuriated by hunger, Judge Jackson took the command of a hastily raised troop of militia, with which, together with a few regular troops, he marched against the Indian towns; and in a campaign, which rather resembled a triumphal march across the country, he put an end to the war. He has been accused of unnecessary severity; but what can be called unnecessary severity, against an enemy whose mode of warfare is an indiscriminate massacre of every age, and to whom the mother and the infant plead alike in vain. Speaking of this savage ferocity, it has been said by an eminent American Statesman, who was distinguished as a friend to Great Britain, as well as to his own country, "On this theme my emotions are unutterable. If I could find words for them, if my powers bore any proportion to my zeal, I would swell my voice to such a note of remonstrance, that it should reach every log house beyond the mountains. I would say to the inhabitants, wake from your security, your cruel danger, your more cruel apprehensions are soon to be renewed! The wounds yet unhealed, are to be torn open again! In the day time your path through the woods will be ambushed; the darkness of midnight will glitter with the blaze of your dwellings! Are you a Father? The blood of your sons shall fatten your corn fields. Are you a mother? The war whoop shall waken the sleep of the cradle!"

Jackson, 'tis true, retaliated severely ; but his vengeance fell on the warriors alone ; no woman or child was touched ; and had he ordered otherwise, no American militia man could have been found to execute his commands

When General Packenham led the flower of the British Army against New-Orleans, as to a certain conquest ; a place without walls, troops, or cannon, Jackson was sent there. He found a few militia, hastily collected ; more were expected. In the scattered state of population, some had to come above a thousand miles. These were mostly volunteers, without skill or tactics, unable to form or to march by rule ; but marksmen, whose aim was almost a fatal certainty. In this situation, which called for the most prompt decision, and when it was more than suspected, that there were persons in the city deeply in the British interest, Jackson did the only thing which could have saved the place ; he seized the power of the bench, and placed the town under military law. At this moment the advance of the British army was landing, accompanied by custom-house and police officers, already arranged to organize a government of the place, in the good old way to which they had been accustomed in their warfare with other enemies.

Without giving them time to pitch their tents, Jackson attacked them at night with the few troops he had. Our officers were surprised by such a reception, at a place where they had expected no

resistance, and they halted till the rest of our troops joined them ; by which time numbers of the militia had arrived. The cotton bags were taken from the warehouses, and placed round the town as a rampart. How this would have been ridiculed by a Cohorn or a Vauban ! and probably it was equally ridiculed by our officers, accustomed to the entrenchments on the European continent. They led on their troops with the valour of British officers, under a heavy cannonade, and with clouds of rockets.

Who could believe that the result should be, the defeat of our troops, with the loss of nearly three thousand men killed, wounded, and prisoners ; and that the raw militia, behind the ramparts of cotton bags, should have only *thirteen* men killed and wounded ! Yet so it appears to have been. Our troops retreated to the swamps, by which New Orleans is surrounded, where they had another enemy to encounter, the diseases attendant on such a situation. When they were gone, Jackson restored to the judges their suspended power (*cedunt arma togæ*), and was called before them and fined for suspending it. Before he could leave the court house, the grateful citizens had paid the fine for their deliverer. He has been again lately called into activity. The Indians on the Florida frontier had begun their massacres. Jackson marched against them ; they fled into the Spanish province ; he followed them there ; he found them protected ; he did not hesitate, but attacked and

captured the Spanish forts, and sent the governor and garrison off in transports, which he hired to receive them. At the same time he told the governor that when the king of Spain should send a sufficient force to quell the Indians, and keep them in subjection, the province should be restored to him.

Fortunately our situation is far removed from Indian, or any other warfare. I have been led into a long digression in showing that a peaceful citizen may at the same time be a good soldier. It has been observed by Talleyrand, that there was a natural connexion between England and America, which must operate in favour of the former, and against France. This I believe to be strictly the case; and wars between Great Britain and America can only arise, from an astonishing ignorance in the British ministry of the feelings and habits of this country. The more I see of America, the more I am convinced, that instead of an absurd jealousy of the growing power of this country, we ought rather to *promote* it. It has been very correctly observed, by one of our statesmen, "that not an axe falls in an American forest which does not put in motion some shuttle, hammer, or wheel, in England." This is truly the case. The amount of British manufactures consumed even in this place, so lately established, is wonderful. In the village of Montrose are already six or eight shopkeepers. One of these lately sent off nine wag-gons to bring in goods from one of the maritime

cities: and these goods are principally of British manufacture, and to be consumed by back-woods-men! It is usual for the store-keepers to supply themselves twice a year, spring and autumn; therefore, it is probable that this storekeeper sells eighteen loads of goods in a year. Multiply eighteen by six, and you have one hundred and eight loads of goods sold in the village of Montrose alone; besides shops in other parts of the country. Instead of prohibiting the emigration of farmers and mechanics to this country, an enlightened ministry would urge it. A man who for want of employment with you, is a burthen to the parish, here purchases a lot of new lands; his labour supplies his family with food and raiment, and the latter is principally British manufacture. As his children increase, his wealth increases, and his demand on the shops, or, as they are here called, stores, increases with it. These stores are supplied from Great Britain with the articles he consumes. The result is obvious; the man who is a weight on his fellowsubjects at home, when abroad, becomes one of those who enhance the prosperity of his native country, by the consumption of its manufactures. These things are too plain to be mistaken; and a British minister must shut both his eyes and ears, who does not perceive that the increase of population here, is of the utmost importance to the interest of the mother country. The concourse of idle and expensive paupers in England, if sent to this country, would become a fountain of wealth,

pouring its fertilizing stream on you from a lavish urn. It is mortifying to know, that these sources of prosperity should have been prevented from flowing upon our country by the sneering letters of Canning, or the unbending pride of Castle-reagh, and a host of others of the same character.

When the French decrees denationalized the vessels of America, for suffering the search of a British cruiser, what a fortunate time it would have been for our country, had our minister been sufficiently wise to have seen that his true policy should have led him to protect and guard the American vessel; to do every act of kindness, and to afford every protection in his power, while our enemy was absurdly provoking the hostility of the nation, whose agriculture was at the very moment affording him the most important aid. What would have been the result of such conduct? Undoubtedly a war between France and America; and a league between the latter and Great Britain; between the parent and the child, as it ought to have been. In monarchical governments, if an injury is done by one to another, a calculation may be made coolly and deliberately, of the sum necessary to quiet all animosity. This is not the case in a government of the people. Here their voice is heard; it is all powerful: and if such a case had happened, as I have supposed, the people would have compelled the government to declare war against France. The flow of the heart of these

people is naturally towards their English relations. An Englishman, if he behaves himself, has a thousand advantages, which no other countryman possesses; and if he is conscious of proper feeling towards the country of his adoption, he may at once consider himself at home among its citizens; by whom he will be received with every attention which cordiality and kindness can bestow.

In Pennsylvania the freedom of election is extended to all citizens who have paid the trifling county tax. In some other states the regulation is different. It is not necessary to enter into the question of the expediency, or inexpediency, of universal suffrage; nor how far it would be useful to have property represented in a political body; it is sufficient to know, that it is protected here by fair and equal laws. There are no rotten boroughs in the United States; and the bribery and corruption common at English elections are here unknown. It must be confessed, however, that a system is suffered to prevail which the good sense of the citizens should long since have banished; and which tends to preserve and perpetuate power in the hands of a few leaders of a dominant party; and who, instead of being actuated by "that first paternal virtue, public zeal," are perhaps held together by the thirst of wealth, or the pride of office. It is common for half a dozen men who possess a little influence, to assemble in a county, and nominate certain persons to represent it in the state legislature, and in the congress of the United States;

the nomination of these self-created leaders is usually followed by the voters at the election. The persons named are elected. The members of the state assembly, before they return to their homes, meet in *caucus*, (as a private political meeting is here termed,) and name some one as a candidate for the chair of government. An agreement is entered into, previous to a vote being taken, that he who shall have the *majority* shall be supported by *all* present; and it would be considered as the greatest proof of political apostacy to act contrary to the opinion of the majority of this meeting. The same thing is done by the members of the congress, in the selection of a person for the presidency; a measure calculated to give undue influence to persons, who may ill deserve the public confidence. This is almost equivalent to giving the president or governor the power of appointing his successor, in consequence of the influence which, during the sessions of the legislature, he may obtain over those who take it upon themselves to select, or nominate to the public, the candidates for those offices; and who, from the ramifications of political influence, have it in their power to render their candidate successful. In this way, the power of party becomes, in fact, the power of the leaders of it; and may be very dangerous to the freedom of election, and destructive of equal representation. I have seen so much evil from the borough-mongering system of England, that I shrink with dread from any thing which may be

supposed to endanger the fair and full expression of the public will, as must be the case when the right of nomination is assumed by a few political leaders, instead of being most carefully preserved by the whole of the people. In the present instance, the danger may be more imaginary than real, at least while property is so generally possessed, and so equally divided in these states ; but in this country, the only asylum of freedom in the world, whatever may be supposed to endanger her safety, should be guarded against or averted, with the most jealous care ; and we should remember how often the liberty of the people has been destroyed by those who assumed the character of its most devoted supporters. In this country there appears to be no danger from any open attack. It is not the impulse of the battering-ram, but the insidious approach of the miner that is to be feared.

Politicians have apprehended much danger to the permanency of the general government of this country, from the jealousy and power of the individual states composing the confederacy ; but this is lessened every day, by the rapidity with which new states are formed, and added to the Union, and which have the effect of rendering the whole more and more powerful in proportion to the number of its fractional parts. Among any considerable number of these it is not easy to form a coalition of interests in opposition to the rest. The danger of disunion is passed. The eastern states,

which formerly exhibited some instances of local jealousies, in opposition to the general government, appear now to be willing to place their pride in the combined strength of the whole, and to view the increase of states, which I think amount to twenty-one, as an augmentation of their individual security. In proportion to the number of parts of which the Union is composed, will the danger of opposition from any of them be lessened; and it is probable, that this march to power will be bounded only by the Pacific Ocean, on the shores of which a colony is already planted, and a line of connexion, by a chain of strong military posts across the continent, about to be established. Should not Great Britain look with exultation at the gigantic growth of her offspring—at the extent to which her language and her code of laws are carried by Anglo-Americans!



LETTER XIV.

Remarks on Birkbeck's Letters.

SINCE writing my last, I have seen a late work by Mr. Birkbeck, entitled "*Letters from Illinois.*" I have read it with attention, and find much in it to confirm the satisfaction with which I contemplate our settlement.

There appears to be a great inequality of fertility in the western states, a natural consequence of what I have mentioned, the washing of the rains robbing the hills of their soil, and depositing it on the river flats. He says, " We found nothing attractive on the eastern side of Indiana ; the situations to the south, on the Ohio river, bounding that state, were so well culled, as to be in the predicament above described ; offering no room for us, without great sacrifices of money and society. The western side of Indiana, on the banks of the Wabash, is liable to the same and other objections. The northern part of Indiana is still in possession of the Indians." And in the state of Ohio, he observes, " We must have paid from twenty to fifty dollars per acre for land, which is technically called, *improved* ; but is in fact deteriorated ; or have purchased at an advance of 1,000, or 1,500 per cent. unimproved land from speculators ; and in either case, should have laboured under the inconvenience of settling detached from society of our own choice, and without the advantage of choice as to soil or situation. We saw many eligible scites and fine tracks of country ; but these were precisely the tracks which had secured the attachment of their possessors."

These circumstances, therefore, which appear to be of sufficient weight, induced Mr. B. to seek a settlement still further west, to which the white inhabitants had not yet been attracted. I have no

doubt that they will soon be round him there ; but a frontier position had certainly be better left entirely to the Americans, and avoided by Englishmen. I do not wonder at some of his countrymen, in his own words, “ wanting faith, thinking they “ should never reach an abode *so far west*.” According to the distance given it appears to be

From Philadelphia to Pittsburgh .. 320 miles.

From the Pittsburgh, down the Ohio,
to Shawanoe town1,200

From Shawanoe town to Birkbeck's
Settlement 50

1,570 miles.

The extensive settlement of Englishmen, in his neighbourhood, which Mr. B. at first contemplated appears to be given up ; as he has not been able to procure the land according to his original wishes. He observes, “ I am therefore going on steadily “ with my own settlement, without reference to “ that plan.” That large plan *thought* of by Mr. B. alone, so far off as Illinois, will, I trust, be carried into effect by the British Emigrant Society here ; in a country much more congenial to a British constitution.

These letters seem to have been principally written at Princeton, in the state of Indiana ; where, it is probable, Mr. B. was obliged to reside until he could have some accommodations made at his settlement in Illinois ; from which it appears, by the map, to be about twenty-five or thirty miles distant.

If the state of society, and the inconvenience of travelling, are to be taken from Mr. B.'s account, they are, to say the least, quite as bad as what may be gathered from other travellers. The following are his words:

“ In the early state of society, where the country is savage, and many of the people just emerging from that condition, much intrepidity of mind, and hardihood of body, are indispensable requisites in the administration of justice. *Brass* for the face wont suffice; there must be *steel* from head to foot. Your military, or fox hunting experience, has, I dare say, furnished adventures similar to those which are constantly occurring here to the gentlemen of the long robe, on their progress from court to court. The judge and the bar are now working their way to the next county seat, through trackless woods, over snow and ice, with the thermometer about Zero. In last November circuit, the judge swam his horse, I think, seven times in one day, and how often in the whole circuit, is not on record. What would our English lawyers say to seven such ablutions in one November day? and then to dry their clothes on their back by turning round and round before a blazing fire, preparatory to a night's lodging on a cabin floor, wrapped in their blankets; which, by the bye, are the only robes used by the profession here.”

Why, I believe the English lawyers would not be surprised, in such a situation, to be told (p. 69)

of an enraged barrister, with a hand-whip or cow-hide, cutting to ribbons the jacket of the foreman of the grand jury: or of a judge shooting a notorious offender, while on horseback in the street, with a pistol ball through the body.

I have alluded to the turbulent character, given by travellers, of some of the western settlers. This character however cannot be considered a general one; and it would be very unjust to give it that application; doubtless there must be many estimable characters there, and we should be aware that the deformity of moral evil, like the depth of shade in a picture, is calculated to make a first and powerful impression. This impression is not lessened by the letters in question, and when we are told, that “the decision of character which prevails among the new settlers, renders their society very interesting, and there is a spirit of fearless enterprise, that raises even the vicious above contempt; not a family, scarce an individual, whose *adventures* would not highly amuse and astonish the groups assembled round the fire-side of our old country.”

We see the anxiety and dangers which are necessarily connected with advanced settlements, exposed to savage inroads, and which it may be much pleasanter to hear recounted, by the fire-side, than to participate in. And it is unfortunate, that even when the situation of affairs change, the character acquired by Indian warfare and intercourse, is too apt to continue. The state of those persons

who live in such a condition, much resembles that of the ancient borderers between England and Scotland; and many an American frontier settler, not only resembles Watt Tinlinn in appearance,

Who was of stature passing tall,
But sparely formed, and lean withal:

But after an Indian inroad, might exclaim with him,

" They crossed at the curfew hour,
And burned my little lonely tower;
The fiend receive their souls therefore!
It had not been burned this year and more.
Barn yard and dwelling, blazing bright,
Served to light me in my flight;
But I was chased the live long night."

Walter Scott would experience no want of " Stark
" moss troopers" there.

Mr. B. says, " There is nothing I anticipate with
" so much satisfaction and security, as the rapid
" development of society in our new country. Its
" elements are rude, certainly, and heterogeneous.
" The first settlers, unprotected and unassisted,
" amid dangers and difficulties, have been accus-
" tomed, from early youth, to rely on their own
" powers; and they surrender with reluctance, and
" only by halves, their right of defence against
" every aggression, even to the laws which they
" themselves have constituted. They have been
" anxiously studious of mildness in the forming of

“ these laws; and when in practice they seem in-
“ efficient, they too frequently proceed, with In-
“ dian perseverance, to acts of vengeance—incon-
“ sistent with the duty or forbearance essential to
“ social man. Hence, deeds of savage and even
“ ferocious violence are too common to be viewed
“ with the abhorrence due to them. This dispo-
“ sition is evinced continually, and acted on with-
“ out any feeling of private or personal animosity:
“ If a man, whom the public voice has proclaimed
“ a thief, or a swindler, escape from justice, for
“ want of legal proof of his guilt, though the law
“ and a jury of his fellow citizens have acquitted
“ him, ten to one but he is met with before he can
“ quit the neighbourhood, and, tied up to a sapling,
“ receives a scourging that marks him for the rest
“ of his life.”

Such a state of society needs no comment. An Englishman, accustomed to the administration of the laws, will suspect that Mr. B. has a mind to deter, instead of invite, his countrymen to adventure “ so far west,” to a country, where, when a prejudice is raised against one, it is not uncommon for a riotous assemblage to become judges and executioners, and scourge, so as to mark for the rest of his life, him who has been declared innocent by a jury.

I regret to see in Mr. B.’s letters an aversion to religion, which is calculated not only to injure his reputation, but most of those who may follow him. He mentions, with the tone of commendation, that

where he is, " children are not baptized, or [nor]
" subjected to any superstitious rite ; parents name
" them, and that is all ; and the last act of the
" drama is as simple as the first. There is no con-
" secrated burial or funeral service. The body is
" enclosed in the plainest coffin, the family of the
" deceased convey the corpse to the woods ; some
" of the party are provided with axes and some
" with spades ; a grave is formed and the body
" placed quietly in it ; then trees are felled over
" the grave to protect it from the wild beasts.
" *These simple monuments of mortality are not un-*
" *frequent in the woods.*"

Surely this is not a desirable situation to live in. If Mr. B. has no belief in religion, still his observations must have convinced him how important its observances are to the tranquillity and peace which we must suppose him desirous of enjoying in this world. In vain will he fly to the solitude of his prairie, if that solitude may be interrupted by those who have shaken off all the restraints that withhold mankind from violence and rapine. He should consider the injury which his example may do to society, when he declares of the church, that he does " not believe in its doctrines ;" and sneeringly asks his correspondent, " when we shall have
" settled ourselves in our cabins, and fixed our-
" selves to our minds as to this world, what sort
" of garb think you we shall assume as candidates
" for the next ?" With Mr. B.'s religious or irreligious opinions I have nothing to do ; this govern-

ment wisely suffers every man to choose his own path, and he may walk in any direction he pleases, however eccentric, provided he does not jostle too rudely against the decorums of society: but I fear that the rapid development of society, which Mr. B. says he anticipates with so much "satisfaction and security," may not be of the most desirable kind, if it is matured under such auspices. Mr. B. should be aware of the slight assurance which the safety of himself and his family depends on, in the exposed situation in which they are placed; and it is worse than rashness in him to be careless of the salutary restraints of law and religion.

The alleged insalubrity of the climate appears to derive confirmation from the frequent mention which is made in these letters of the necessity of a settler bringing medicines with him: This appears to be considered as the staff of life in Illinois. "The English of both sexes," Mr. B. says, "and strangers in general are liable to bilious attacks on their first arrival. These complaints seem, however, simple and not difficult to manage, *if taken in time.*" In another part he observes, "that clothing, bedding, household linen, and *simple medicine of the best quality*, and sundry small articles of cutlery and light tools, are the best things for a settler to bring out with him." And again: "*a few simple medicines* of the best quality, are indispensable; such as calomel, bark in powder, castor oil, calcined magnesia and laudanum.

“ They may be of the greatest importance on the
“ voyage and journey, *as well as after your arrival.*”

From these passages, which indicate a necessity for every settler to bring his own apothecary shop with him, and account sufficiently for the simple monuments, so frequent in the woods of Illinois, you will think, that in following the instructions of my friends, to “ *let no consideration tempt me to select an unhealthy situation,*” I should have little prospect of fixing them comfortably in Mr. B.’s neighbourhood; and that, waving all other objections, there was in this enough to deter me from going *so far west.*

I had been told of the parching heat of the western prairies; but had not heard much of their winters. Mr. Schultz, indeed, says, in a letter from St. Genevieve, in the immediate vicinity of Illinois, and dated in February: “ From the experience I have had, I assure you, that the cold for six weeks past, has been every way as severe as in the city of New-York.” Mr. B. says “ extreme cold does not seem to belong to us; but we have some very severe paroxysms of it, when the wind sets from the north west, the thermometer falling rapidly to 7° a 8° below Zero;” and in another part he says, “ we have had an unusual severe winter. The mercury has once been 12° below Zero, and several times approaching that extreme.” This is a degree of cold that might not have been expected in that latitude; and is to

be accounted for only by the flat, unsheltered situation of the country, which receives the piercing north west wind, in its full force, and with all its collected cold, from the icy mountains, at the heads of the Mississippi and Missouri. These extremes of heat and cold,

“Extremes by change more fierce,”

to which the inhabitants are exposed, must, undoubtedly, be one cause of the unhealthiness of the country.

In the 8th letter it is observed, “there are no very good mill seats on the streams in our neighbourhood, but our prairie affords an eligible site for a wind-mill.” A want of mill seats on the streams, must be the case in all flat countries, and it is extremely inconvenient to the settler, not only as it occasions much difficulty and delay, in the grinding of grain; but as, without falls of water for saw mills, he is unable to procure boards for his buildings, unless at prices which he can ill afford to pay.

The difference of expense in going from Philadelphia or New-York to Illinois, or in coming here, from either of those cities, is an object worthy of consideration. One of our party, Mr. Lee, has just arrived from Philadelphia, with his family, consisting of seven persons, and thirty hundred weight of goods. The carriage of his goods cost him three dollars per hundred, delivered

here. His family came in the same waggon, and their expenses on the road were twenty-four dollars, in all one hundred and fourteen dollars. The cost of carriage to Pittsburg, is eight dollars per hundred, which would be on the above load 240 dollars, and supposing the expenses on the road double, or forty-eight dollars, then the sum expended in getting to Pittsburg, would be 288 dollars. From Pittsburg it is by water, 1200 miles to Shawanoe town; and by land fifty miles further to the prairie at Mr. B's. In going down the river, it would be necessary to purchase an ark, or boat, and to hire hands who are acquainted with the channels of the river, who must be paid not only for going down with the family, but for returning. Supposing all these expenses to amount to two thirds of the expense of the journey to Pittsburg, or 192 dollars, this makes altogether 480 dollars, besides the loss of time in going to Illinois; or three hundred and sixty-six dollars more than will be expended in coming here. This 366 dollars will procure, under the Society's contract, 122 acres of land. So that, climate and markets out of the question, a British emigrant of the above description, will come here, and pay for one hundred and twenty-two acres of land, for what it will cost him to go to the Illinois, at the most favourable season of the year. But in the winter, when the Ohio river is frozen, to get a family and furniture from Pittsburg or Illinois, is, I conceive, beyond the power of any British emigrant.

The cost of a voyage from New-Orleans up the Mississippi and Ohio, to Illinois, is three times that of a voyage from England to the United States. The following are the rates charged from New Orleans to Illinois:—For a grown person, *twenty-eight pounds, two shillings, and sixpence*: children from two to ten years old, half price; those under two, one fourth; servants, *half price*; way passengers, sixpence a mile.

In travelling by land to Pittsburg, and then descending the Ohio, to reach the Western Country, the emigrant must make his calculations for the expenses of a delay which may take place at Pittsburg, by want of water in the river. The family of a Mr. G——, who lately removed thither from Philadelphia, was detained one month at Pittsburg, and another month was spent on the water before they arrived at Shawanoe town.

To the traveller who is detained at Pittsburgh, it is no slight alleviation to reflect, that he is at the very abode of hospitality; but to most of the emigrants, this “*availeth little*,” in comparison with the consequences of an expensive journey.

I have marked many places for your observation in Mr. B.’s work, which I send you. I shall also transmit an extract from the *Village Record*, a very ably conducted newspaper, published at West Chester, near Philadelphia, by Mr. Miner, lately a member of the Legislature of this Commonwealth.

CONCLUSION.

IN the preceding statement, I have endeavoured to guard my expressions, in such a way, that they should not raise extravagant expectations of the country in which we have placed our settlement. I believe it will answer your wishes; for I think our opinions on this subject will agree, as they do in most others. But I wish every one who reads the description which I have given, to consider it with the same deliberation with which it has been written. I believe I see, very clearly, the difficulties which every person has to encounter, who settles in a new country; for they are before my eyes, wherever I turn; but I see that where industry is applied, first competency and then abundance follows. An Englishman, by coming here, may shake from his heavily laden shoulders, the immense burthen of his taxes; but he must not expect to lay aside his industrious habits, and to indulge in indolence, unless he brings a fortune with him. This I wish to impress upon the mind of every one. You who are happily blessed with a competency, will find a pleasure in looking over the improvements of your farm, or amusing yourself in rural sports. It will be better for many Englishmen, to purchase an improvement, than to begin in the woods, as the phrase is, for a commencing improvement. This will enable him immediately

to keep his cattle, and he may add such quantity of land as his circumstances shall render proper, and extend his clearing and improvements according to his industry or his purse. All his clearings, if he is careful, will doubly repay the toil and expense of making. Still, however, at first, he must not expect to see the smooth surface of his native island, where the cheapness and abundance of labour enables the farmer to till his fields with more care than is used here in a garden. Here are the materials of beauty, as well as happiness; but they must be fashioned and shaped into order and symmetry.—He who has not exertion to do this, had better stop and slumber at home. The idle should not come here, but to the industrious man, every thing necessary for his comfort is offered. With pure air, and excellent water, he may count upon health. With a fertile soil, and good markets, and the blessings of Providence, which usually follow the use of proper means, he may calculate on prosperity; while, to crown and preserve all, he is blessed with

“ Kind, equal rule, the government of laws,
And all protecting FREEDOM, which alone
Sustains the name and dignity of man.”

It just occurs to me to add that no female can be arrested or imprisoned for debt, in this commonwealth.

In order that you may be able to judge for yourself of the excellence of the government of which

we are invited to become citizens, I shall transmit along with these sheets, the Constitution of the United States, and of the state of Pennsylvania, which is among the most powerful of the Union in wealth and resources. I shall add also an abstract of the laws respecting naturalization, and the act to enable aliens to hold lands in this commonwealth.

I remain, my dear friend, with many wishes for the happy arrival of yourself and the rest of our party, &c.

C. B. JOHNSON.

From the Village Recorder of 18th Nov. 1818.

NOTICE OF MR. BIRKBECK'S LETTERS.

WE have before noticed Mr. Birkbeck's letters from Illinois. His calculations, showing the rapidity with which independence may be obtained, and even wealth accumulated, are well contrived to lead the sanguine in flocks to his neighbourhood.—Whether all who go will realize the happiness and prosperity which their fancies have pictured, our deliberate judgment leads us much to question.—That the prairies of which he speaks are rich in soil, and will be prolific of produce, we entertain no doubt; but fine land and good crops are not the only considerations which a prudent man will take into the account, when he is about to remove his family, and to settle in a new situation. Health is better than riches; and the finest prairie in Illinois would poorly compensate for the sacrifice of half his family, and the reduction of the rest to debility and disease.

New countries are generally healthy. When they are not so, when diseases make their appearance with the first settlers, the climate must be radically bad, and the situation extremely insalubrious. These observations have arisen from an impression left upon my mind by Mr. Birkbeck's book. In letter fourth, he speaks of *burials*—it is

right enough, deaths take place every where—but when he adds, “These simple monuments of mortality, [graves over which trees have been felled] “are not *unfrequent* in the woods,” it strikes me as quite unusual, and indicates a sickliness of climate justly alarming. To this when it is added that he enjoins it on his friends again and again, as a thing of much importance, pressing from its necessity, constantly upon his mind, that they should bring with them calomel and bark—Physic, physic, physic!—I must confess that I am quite willing to give up all claim to his prairies, and to be content with plain Pennsylvania hills and valleys, uplands and bottoms, that will yield fifty bushels of corn, or twenty of wheat, to the acre.

Another thing in Mr. Birkbeck's letters impressed me with no very favourable idea of his situation.—He speaks of erecting a wind-mill on his prairie! What! are there no mill seats in Illinois? Is the land so low; are the waters so sluggish, that fall enough cannot be found to turn a mill? Such we have reason to think is the fact. Is it then to be wondered at, if fevers and ague—bilious fever—yellow fever, and fifty other diseases, should be rife where the lands are low and the waters stagnant.

For my own part—perhaps it is the effect of prejudice,—but I can't help it—I prefer the running stream—the pure, sweet, lively water that gushes from the hill side, and the occasional cataract, all foaming and bounding, like a flock of white sheep from the mountain, imparting cheerfulness and health. I wish I had room to extract from a late work entitled “*Rambles in Italy*,” a description of a spot, the most beautiful to the eye, but fatal to the occu-

pant. The summer and autumn it was abandoned, for the miasma that rose from its putrid waters blighted human life as the frost withers the leaves of the forest. Such, I apprehend, will be the future description of many a fair promising prairie in the west.

Well, there is one consolation: There are new lands enough nearer home—excellent in soil, having pure water, and advantageously situated. How apt we are to look at a great distance for happiness, overlooking the advantages near us! Nearly one half of Pennsylvania is yet uncultivated. From a point, beginning a few miles north of Easton, run a line longitudinally so as to intersect the western line of the state, passing a few miles north of Pittsburg; we divide Pennsylvania into two equal parts. South of this line 83 members of Assembly reside; north of it 15. Suppose the state to contain 900,000 inhabitants—750,000 live in the south half, and only 150,000 in the North. Yet the north part will admit a population greater than that which now exists in the south. There is ample room, therefore, for 600,000 inhabitants, or 100,000 families to settle in Pennsylvania, and lands can be obtained on terms quite as reasonable as in the west.

Some parts of this territory are settling with great rapidity. Of Susquehanna county I can speak from personal knowledge, having been one among the first who made a settlement near where the present seat of justice, (Montrose,) is established. It was, 18 years ago, a wilderness; there was no road within eight miles of the spot which is now a handsome town. It has not, it is true, like some of the Alabama towns, increased 200 houses in a season; such places, of unnatural growth, will go

line Jonah's gourd, as suddenly as they came; I have no confidence in them. But the growth of Montrose and the settlement of the country in the neighbourhood, have been natural and healthful. This county, lying within two days journey of the Hudson, and three of Philadelphia, and being nearly in a direction between those cities and the fine and flourishing Genessee country, rendered it an object deserving attention. Robert H. Rose, Esq. took an active part in its settlement. Enterprising, liberal, and intelligent, he has, with the aid of several other gentlemen, produced an astonishing revolution in those forests. Various turnpikes extend through the county. At the seat of justice are erected very handsome public buildings; a Bank of superior credit, which has been some time in operation, is there established, and at the last election, they polled upwards of 200 votes at Montrose.

The soil is of an excellent quality, favourable for all sorts of grain: and particularly productive of grass, promising to be one of the finest grazing countries in the Union. The timber is chiefly Sugar Maple, Beech, Ash, Hemlock and Birch. In its hills and valleys the land lies much like that of Chester county; the water abundant, lively, and clear. In this fine county, lands may be bought on the turnpikes for five dollars per acre; or at a less price some distance from them. Mill seats are numerous and excellent; and, above all, in point of health it cannot be surpassed. With the advantages of good roads, schools, and society, and land at a moderate price so near; what thinking man would remove, with a pack load of calomel and jalap at his back, to the fever prairies of Illinois?

I have spoken particularly of Susquehanna county;

but the description, as it respects soil, products, timber, water, &c. will apply to all the counties on the north line of the state. But I have no more room at present. This subject must be resumed. The settlement of this great extent of territory is a subject of the highest importance to the state, and ought to engage its most serious attention.

APPENDIX.

THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WE, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION I. All legislative powers, herein granted, shall be vested in a CONGRESS of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECT. II. 1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year, by the people of the several states; and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

2. No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

3. Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North-Carolina five, South-Carolina five, and Georgia three.

4. When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election, to fill such vacancies.

5. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker, and other officers, and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

SECT. III. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state,

chosen by the legislature thereof for six years ; and each Senator shall have one vote.

2. Immediately after they shall be assembled, in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided, as equally as may be, into three classes.— The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year ; of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year ; and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year ; so that one third may be chosen every second year ; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments, until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

3. No person shall be a Senator, who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

4. The Vice-President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

5. The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

6. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside. And no person shall be convicted, without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

7. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not

extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust, or profit, under the United States; but the party convicted shall, nevertheless, be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

SECT. IV. 1. The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall, by law, appoint a different day.

SECT. V. 1. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorised to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as each House may provide.

2. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

3. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

4. Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place, than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECT. VI. 1. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses; and in going to, and returning from, the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

2. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased, during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States shall be a member of either House, during his continuance in office.

SECT. VII. 1. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments, as on other bills.

2. Every bill, which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to re-consider it. If, after such re-consideration, two-thirds of that House shall agree to

pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be re-considered, and, if approved by two-thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases, the votes of both Houses, shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House, respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress, by their adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

3. Every order, resolution or vote, to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States, and, before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or, being disapproved by him, shall be re-passed by two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

SECT. VIII. The Congress shall have power—

1. To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts, and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

2. To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

4. To establish an uniform rule of naturalization and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies, throughout the United States;

5. To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

6. To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

7. To establish post-offices and post roads;

8. To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times, to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

9. To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court; To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

10. To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

11. To raise and support armies; but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

12. To provide and maintain a navy;

13. To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

14. To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions;

15. To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states, respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training

the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

16. To exercise exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places, purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings;—and

17. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper, for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof.

SECT. IX. 1. The migration or importation of such persons, as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

2. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion, or invasion, the public safety may require it.

3. No bill of attainder, or ex post facto law, shall be passed.

4. No capitation, or other direct tax, shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census, or enumeration, herein before directed to be taken.

5. No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state. No preference shall be given, by any regulation of commerce or revenue, to the ports

of one state over those of another ; nor shall vessels bound to or from one state be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties, in another.

6. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law ; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

7. No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States ; and no person, holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

SECT. X. 1. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation ; grant letters of marque and reprisal ; coin money ; emit bills of credit ; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts ; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts ; or grant any title of nobility.

2. No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws ; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports, or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States ; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and controul of the Congress. No state shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

ARTICLE II.

SECT. I. 1. The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice-President, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows:

2. Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

3. The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes, which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

4. No person, except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office, who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

5. In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the Congress may, by law, provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability, both of the President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

6. The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected; and he shall not receive, within that period, any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

7. Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation :

“ I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

SECT. II. 1. The President shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices; and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

2. He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law. But the Congress may, by law, vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think pro-

per in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

3. The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of their next session.

SECT. III. He shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures, as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and, in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

SECT. IV. The President, Vice-President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE III.

SECT. I. The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may, from time to time, ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

SECT. II. 1. The judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, or other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states, between a state and citizens of another state, between citizens of different states, between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens, or subjects.

2. In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction both as to law and fact, with such exception, and under such regulations, as the Congress shall make.

3. The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

SECT. III. 1. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

2. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

ARTICLE IV.

SECT. I. Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the Congress, may, by general laws, prescribe the manner in which such acts, records and proceedings shall be proved, and the effects thereof.

SECT. II. 1. The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

2. A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state, having jurisdiction of the crime.

3. No person held to service or labour in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labour, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labour may be due.

SECT. III. 1. New states may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state, nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the Congress.

2. The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory, or other property, belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed, as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

SECT. IV. The United States shall guarantee to every state in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and, on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

ARTICLE V.

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress: provided that no amendment, which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first Article; and that no state without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

ARTICLE VI.

1. All debts contracted, and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall

be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

2. This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land ; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

3. The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound, by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution ; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office, or public trust, under the United States.

ARTICLE VII.

The ratification of the Conventions of nine states shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution, between the states so ratifying the same.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Article the First.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press ; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Article the Second.

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Article the Third.

No soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article the Fourth.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated ; and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article the Fifth.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger : nor shall any person be subject for the same offence, to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb ; nor shall be compelled, in any criminal case, to be a witness against himself ; nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article the Sixth.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law ; and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation to be confronted with the witnesses against him ; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

Article the Seventh.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved ; and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article the Eighth.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article the Ninth.

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article the Tenth.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Article the Eleventh.

The Judicial Power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

Article the Twelfth.

1. The electors shall meet in their respective states, [and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President; and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit, sealed, to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation of each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall

consist of a member, or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next, following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death, or other constitutional disability of the President.

2. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice.

3. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President, shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

Article the Thirteenth.

If any citizen of the United States, shall accept, claim, receive, or retain any title of nobility or honour, or shall, without the consent of Congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office, or emolument of any kind whatever, from any Emperor, King, Prince, or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust, or profit, under them, or either of them.

[N.B. This article has been ratified by some of the States, but not by a number sufficient to make it a part of the Constitution. Feb. 1819.]

THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH of PENNSYLVANIA.



WE, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ordain and establish this Constitution for its Government.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION I. The legislative power of this commonwealth shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

SECT. II. The Representatives shall be chosen annually, by the citizens of the city of Philadelphia, and of each county respectively, on the second Tuesday of October.

SECT. III. No person shall be a Representative, who shall not have attained the age of twenty-one years, and have been a citizen and inhabitant of the state three years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof an inhabitant of the city or county in which he shall be chosen; unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the

United States, or of this state. No person, residing within any city, town or borough, which shall be entitled to a separate representation, shall be elected a member for any county; nor shall any person, residing without the limits of any such city, town, or borough, be elected a member thereof.

SECT. IV. Within three years after the first meeting of the General Assembly, and within every subsequent term of seven years, an enumeration of the taxable inhabitants shall be made, in such manner as shall be directed by law. The number of Representatives shall, at the several periods of making such enumeration, be fixed by the legislature, and apportioned among the city of Philadelphia and the several counties, according to the number of taxable inhabitants in each; and shall never be less than sixty, nor greater than one hundred. Each county shall have, at least, one Representative; but no county, hereafter erected, shall be entitled to a separate representation, until a sufficient number of taxable inhabitants shall be contained within it, to entitle them to one Representative, agreeably to the ratio which shall then be established.

SECT. V. The Senators shall be chosen, for four years, by the citizens of Philadelphia, and of the several counties, at the same time, in the same manner, at the same places, where they shall vote for Representatives.

SECT. VI. The number of Senators shall, at the several periods of making the enumeration before-mentioned, be fixed by the legislature, and apportioned among the districts, formed as hereinafter directed, according to the number of taxable inhabitants in each; and shall never be less than one fourth, nor greater than one third, of the number of Representatives.

SECT. VII. The Senators shall be chosen in districts, to be formed by the legislature, each district containing such a number of taxable inhabitants as shall be entitled to elect not more than four Senators. When a district shall be composed of two or more counties, they shall be adjoining. Neither the city of Philadelphia nor any county shall be divided, in forming a district.

SECT. VIII. No person shall be a Senator, who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and have been a citizen and inhabitant of the state four years next before his election, and the last year thereof an inhabitant of the district for which he shall be chosen; unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this state.

SECT. IX. Immediately after the Senators shall be assembled, in consequence of the first election, subsequent to the first enumeration, they shall be divided, by lot, as equally as may be, into four classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, of the second class at the expiration of the second year, of the third class at the expiration of the third year, and of the fourth class at the expiration of the fourth year; so that one fourth may be chosen every year.

SECT. X. The General Assembly shall meet on the first Tuesday of December in every year, unless sooner convened by the Governor.

SECT. XI. Each house shall choose its Speaker and other Officers; and the Senate shall also choose a Speaker, pro tempore, when the Speaker shall exercise the office of Governor.

SECT. XII. Each House shall judge of the qualifications of its members. Contested elections shall be determined by a committee, to be selected, formed, and regulated in such a manner, as shall be directed by law. A majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorised, by law, to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as may be provided.

SECT. XIII. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behaviour; and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member; but not a second time for the same cause; and shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the legislature of a free state.

SECT. XIV. Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish them weekly, except such parts as may require secrecy: And the yeas and nays of the members on any question shall, at the desire of any two of them, be entered on the journals.

SECT. XV. The doors of each House, and of committees of the whole, shall be open, unless when the business shall be such as ought to be kept secret.

SECT. XVI. Neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place, than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECT. XVII. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the commonwealth. They shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach or surety of the

peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of the respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same: And for any speech or debate in either House they shall not be questioned in any other place.

SECT. XVIII. No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under this commonwealth, which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been encreased, during such time; and no member of Congress, or other person holding any office (except of attorney at law and in the militia) under the United States, or this commonwealth, shall be a member of either House during his continuance in Congress, or in office.

SECT. XIX. When vacancies happen in either House, the Speaker shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

SECT. XX. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose amendments, as in other bills.

SECT. XXI. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.

SECT. XXII. Every bill, which shall have passed both Houses, shall be presented to the Governor: If he approve, he shall sign it; but if he shall not approve, he shall return it, with his objections, to the House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large upon their journals, and proceed to re-consider it: If, after such re-consideration, two-thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, with the objections, to the other House, by which likewise it shall be re-considered; and if approved by two-

thirds of that House, it shall be a law. But in such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered on the journals of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall be a law, unless sent back within three days after their next meeting.

SECT. XXIII. Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of both Houses may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the Governor, and, before it shall take effect, be approved by him or, being disapproved, shall be re-passed by two-thirds of both Houses, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION I. The Supreme Executive power of this commonwealth shall be vested in a Governor.

SECT. II. The Governor shall be chosen on the second Tuesday of October, by the citizens of the commonwealth, at the places where they shall respectively vote for Representatives. The returns of every election for Governor shall be sealed up, and transmitted to the seat of government, directed to the Speaker of the Senate, who shall open and publish them in the presence of the members of both Houses of the Legislature. The person having the

highest number of votes shall be Governor. But if two or more shall be equal and highest in votes, one of them shall be chosen Governor by the joint vote of the members of both Houses. Contested elections shall be determined by a committee, to be selected from both Houses of the Legislature, and formed and regulated in such manner as shall be directed by law.

SECT. III. The Governor shall hold his office during three years from the third Tuesday of December next ensuing his election, and shall not be capable of holding it longer than nine in any term of twelve years.

SECT. IV. He shall be, at least, thirty years of age, and have been a citizen and inhabitant of this state seven years next before his election; unless he shall have been absent on the public business of the United States, or of this state.

SECT. V. No member of Congress, or person holding any office under the United States, or this state, shall exercise the office of Governor.

SECT. VI. The Governor shall, at stated times, receive, for his services, a compensation, which shall be neither increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected.

SECT. VII. He shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of this commonwealth, and of the militia; except when they shall be called into the actual service of the United States.

SECT. VIII. He shall appoint all officers, whose offices are established by this Constitution, or shall be established by law, and whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for; but no person shall be appointed to an office within any county, who shall not have been a citizen and inhabitant

therein one year next before his appointment, if the county shall have been so long erected; but if it shall not have been so long erected, then within the limits of the county or counties out of which it shall have been taken. No member of Congress from this state, nor any person holding or exercising any office of trust or profit under the United States, shall, at the same time, hold or exercise the office of Judge, Secretary, Treasurer, Prothonotary, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, Sheriff, or any office in this state, to which a salary is by law annexed, or any other office, which future legislatures shall declare incompatible with offices or appointments under the United States..

SECT. IX. He shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, and grant reprieves and pardons, except in cases of impeachment.

SECT. X. He may require information, in writing, from the officers in the executive department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

SECT. XI. He shall from time to time, give to the General Assembly information of the state of the commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge expedient.

SECT. XII. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General Assembly; and in case of disagreement between the two Houses, with respect to the time of adjournment, adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper, not exceeding four months.

SECT. XIII. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

SECT. XIV. In case of the death or resignation of the Governor, or of his removal from office, the

Speaker of the Senate shall exercise the office of Governor, until another Governor shall be duly qualified. And if the trial of a contested election shall continue longer than until the third Tuesday in December next ensuing the election of a Governor, the Governor of the last year, or the Speaker of the Senate, who may be in the exercise of the executive authority, shall continue therein until the determination of such contested election, and until a Governor shall be qualified as aforesaid.

SECT. XV. A Secretary shall be appointed and commissioned during the Governor's continuance in office, if he shall so long behave himself well. He shall keep a fair register of all the official acts and proceedings of the Governor, and shall, when required, lay the same, and all papers, minutes, and vouchers, relative thereto, before either branch of the legislature, and shall perform such other duties as shall be enjoined him by law.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION I. In elections by the citizens, every freeman of the age of twenty-one years, having resided in the state two years next before the election, and within that time paid a state or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least six months before the election, shall enjoy the rights of an elector: Provided, that the sons of persons qualified as aforesaid, between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-two years, shall be entitled to vote, although they shall not have paid taxes.

SECT. II. All elections shall be by ballot, except those by persons in their representative capacities, who shall vote viva voce.

SECT. III. Electors shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach or surety of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance on elections, and in going to and returning from them.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION I. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeaching.

SECT. II. All impeachments shall be tried by the Senate: When sitting for that purpose, the Senators shall be upon oath or affirmation. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

SECT. III. The Governor and all other civil officers, under this commonwealth, shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office: But judgment, in such cases, shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honour, trust, or profit, under this commonwealth: The party whether convicted or acquitted, shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

ARTICLE V.

SECT. I. The Judicial power of this commonwealth shall be vested in a Supreme Court, in Courts Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, in a Court of Common Pleas, Orphan's Court, Register's Court, and a Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace for each county, in Justices of the Peace, and in such other Courts as the legislature may, from time to time, establish.

SECT. II. The Judges of the Supreme Court and

of the several Courts of Common Pleas, shall hold their offices during good behaviour: But for any reasonable cause, which shall not be sufficient ground of impeachment, the Governor may remove any of them, on the address of two-thirds of each branch of the legislature. The Judges of the Supreme Court and the Presidents of the several Courts of Common Pleas shall, at stated times, receive, for their services, an adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office; but they shall receive no fees or perquisites of office, nor hold any other office of profit under this commonwealth.

SECT. III. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall extend over the state, and the Judges thereof shall, by virtue of their offices, be Justices of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery in the several counties.

SECT. IV. Until it shall be otherwise directed by law, the several Courts of Common Pleas shall be established in the following manner. The Governor shall appoint, in each county, not fewer than three, nor more than four, Judges, who, during their continuance in office, shall reside in such county: The state shall be divided by law into circuits, none of which shall include more than six, nor fewer than three counties: A president shall be appointed of the Courts in each circuit, who, during his continuance in office shall reside therein: The President and Judges, any two of whom shall be a quorum, shall compose the respective Courts of Common Pleas.

SECT V. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in each county, shall, by virtue of their offices, be Justices of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol

Delivery, for the trial of capital and other offenders therein: Any two of the said Judges, the President being one, shall be a quorum; but they shall not hold a Court of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery in any county, when the Judges of the Supreme Court or any of them, shall be sitting in the same county. The party accused, as well as the commonwealth, may, under such regulations as shall be prescribed by law, remove the indictment and proceedings, or a transcript thereof, into the Supreme Court.

SECT. VI. The Supreme Court and the several Courts of Common Pleas shall, beside the powers heretofore usually exercised by them, have the power of a Court of Chancery, so far as relates to the perpetuating of testimony, the obtaining of evidence from places not within the state, and the care of the persons and estates of those, who are non compotes mentis: And the legislature shall vest in the said courts such other powers to grant relief in equity, as shall be found necessary; and may, from time to time, enlarge or diminish those powers, or vest them in such other courts, as they shall judge proper for the due administration of justice.

SECT VII. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of each county, any two of whom shall be a quorum, shall compose the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace and Orphan's Court thereof; and the Register of Wills, together with the said Judges, or any two of them, shall compose the Register's Court of each county.

SECT. VIII. The Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas shall, within their respective counties, have the like powers with the Judges of the Supreme Court, to issue writs of Certiorari to the Jus-

tices of the Peace, and to cause their proceedings to be brought before them, and the like right and justice to be done.

SECT. IX. The President of the Courts in each circuit, within such circuit, and the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, within their respective counties, shall be Justices of the Peace, so far as relates to criminal matters.

SECT. X. The Governor shall appoint a competent number of Justices of the Peace, in such convenient districts, in each county, as are or shall be directed by law : They shall be commissioned during good behaviour, but may be removed on conviction of misbehaviour in office, or of any infamous crime, or on the address of both Houses of the legislature.

SECT. XI. A Register's office for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration, and an office for the recording of deeds, shall be kept in each county.

SECT. XII. The style of all process shall be, *The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* ; all prosecutions shall be carried on in the name and by the authority of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conclude, *against the peace and the dignity of the same*.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION I. Sheriffs and Coroners shall, at the times and places of election of Representatives, be chosen by the citizens of each county : Two persons shall be chosen for each office, one of whom for each respectively shall be appointed by the Governor.— They shall hold their offices for three years, if they shall so long behave themselves well, and until a suc-

cessor be duly qualified; but no person shall be twice chosen or appointed Sheriff in any term of six years. Vacancies, in either of the said offices, shall be filled by a new appointment, to be made by the Governor, to continue until the next general election, and until a successor shall be chosen and qualified as aforesaid.

SECT. II. The freemen of this commonwealth shall be armed and disciplined for its defence.—Those, who conscientiously scruple to bear arms, shall not be compelled to do so; but shall pay an equivalent for personal service. The militia officers shall be appointed in such manner, and for such time, as shall be directed by law.

SECT. III. Prothonotaries, Clerks of the Peace and Orphan's Courts, Recorders of Deeds, Registers of Wills and Sheriffs, shall keep their offices in the county town of the county in which they respectively shall be officers, unless when the Governor shall, for special reasons, dispense therewith for any term, not exceeding five years after the county shall have been erected.

SECT. IV. All commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and be sealed with the state seal, and signed by the Governor.

SECT. V. The State Treasurer shall be appointed annually, by the joint vote of the members of both Houses. All other officers in the treasury department, attorneys at law, election officers, officers relating to taxes, to the poor and highways, constables, and other township officers shall be appointed, in such manner as is or shall be directed by law.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION I. The Legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide, by law, for the establishment of schools throughout the state, in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis.

SECT. II. The arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries of learning.

SECT III. The rights, privileges, immunities, and estates of religious societies and corporate bodies shall remain, as if the constitution of this state had not been altered and amended.

ARTICLE VIII.

Members of the General Assembly, and all officers, executive and judicial, shall be bound, by oath or affirmation, to support the Constitution of this commonwealth, and to perform the duties of their respective offices with fidelity.

ARTICLE IX.

That the general, great, and essential Principles of Liberty and free Government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare,

SECTION I. That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness.

SECT. II. That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness: For the advancement of those ends they have, at all times, an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish their government, in such manner as they may think proper.

SECT. III. That all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences; that no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent; that no human authority can, in any case whatever, controul or interfere with the rights of conscience; and that no preference shall ever be given, by law, to any religious establishments or modes of worship.

SECT. IV. That no person, who acknowledges the being of a God and a future state of rewards and punishments, shall, on account of his religious sentiments, be disqualified to hold any office or place of trust or profit under this commonwealth.

SECT. V. That elections shall be free and equal.

SECT. VI. That trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolate.

SECT. VII. That the printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any branch of government: And no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man; and every citizen may freely speak, write, and print, on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct

of officers, or men in a public capacity, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and, in all indictments for libels, the jury shall have a right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court as in other cases.

SECT. VIII. That the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions, from unreasonable searches and seizures: And that no warrant to search any place, or to seize any person or things, shall issue, without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation.

SECT. IX. That, in all criminal prosecutions, the accused hath a right to be heard by himself and his council, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour, and, in prosecutions by indictment or information, a speedy public trial, by an impartial jury of the vicinage: That he cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor can he be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, unless by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

SECT. X. That no person shall for any indictable offence, be proceeded against criminally by information, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger, or by leave of the court, for oppression and misdemeanour in office. No person shall, for the same offence, be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall any man's property be taken or applied to public use, without the consent of his representatives, and without just compensation being made.

SECT. XI. That all courts shall be open, and every man, for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by the due course of law, and right and justice administered, without sale, denial, or delay. Suits may be brought against the commonwealth in such manner, in such courts, and in such cases, as the legislature may by law direct.

SECT. XII. That no power of suspending laws shall be exercised, unless by the legislature, or its authority.

SECT. XIII. That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishments inflicted.

SECT. XIV. That all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident or presumption great; and the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

SECT. XV. That no commission of Oyer and Terminer, or Gaol Delivery shall be issued.

SECT. XVI. That the person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in prison, after delivering up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

SECT. XVII. That no ex post facto law, nor any law impairing contracts shall be made.

SECT. XVIII. That no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature.

SECT. XIX. That no attainder shall work corruption of blood, nor, except during the life of the offender, forfeiture of estate to the commonwealth: that the estates of such persons as shall destroy their own

lives shall descend or vest as in case of natural death; and if any person shall be killed by casualty, there shall be no forfeiture by reason thereof.

SECT. XX. That the citizens have right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address, or remonstrance.

SECT. XXI. That the right of citizens to bear arms, in defence of themselves and the state, shall not be questioned.

SECT. XXII. That no standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up without the consent of the legislature, and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power,

SECT. XXIII. That no soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

SECT. XXIV. That the legislature shall not grant any title of nobility or hereditary distinction, nor create any office, the appointment of which shall be for a longer term than during good behaviour.

SECT. XXV. That emigration from the state shall not be prohibited.

SECT. XXVI. To guard against transgressions of the high powers which we have delegated, *we declare*, That every thing in this article is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall for ever remain inviolate.

SCHEDULE.

That no Inconvenience may arise from the Alterations and Amendments in the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same into complete operation, it is hereby declared and ordained,

I. That all laws of this commonwealth, in force at the time of making the said alterations and amendments in the said Constitution, and not inconsistent therewith, and all rights, actions, prosecutions, claims and contracts, as well of individuals as of bodies corporate, shall continue as if the said alterations and amendments had not been made.

II. That the President and Supreme Executive Council shall continue to exercise the executive authority of this commonwealth, as heretofore, until the Third Tuesday of December next; but no intermediate vacancies in the Council shall be supplied by new elections.

III. That all officers in the appointment of the executive department shall continue in the exercise of the duties of their respective offices until the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, unless their commissions shall sooner expire by their own limitations, or the said offices become vacant by death or resignation, and no longer, unless reappointed and commissioned by the Governor; except that the judges of the supreme court shall hold their offices for the terms in their commissions respectively expressed.

IV. That justice shall be administered in the several counties of the state, until the period aforesaid, by the same justices, in the same courts, and in the same manner, as heretofore.

V. That no person now in commission as sheriff shall be eligible at the next election for a longer term than will, with the time which he shall have served in the said office, complete the term of three years.

VI. That, until the first enumeration shall be made, as directed in the fourth section of the first article of the Constitution, established by this Convention, the city of Philadelphia and the several counties shall be respectively entitled to elect the same number of Representatives as is now prescribed by law.

VII. That the first Senate shall consist of eighteen members, to be chosen in districts formed as follows, to wit: The city of Philadelphia and the counties of Philadelphia and Delaware shall be a district, and elect three Senators: The County of Chester shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The county of Bucks shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The county of Montgomery shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The county of Northampton shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The counties of Lancaster and York shall be a district, and shall elect three Senators: The counties of Berks and Dauphin shall be a district, and shall elect two Senators: The counties of Cumberland and Mifflin shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The counties of Northumberland, Luzerne, and Huntingdon, shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The counties of Bedford and Franklin shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: The counties of Westmoreland and Allegheney shall be a district, and shall elect one Senator: And the counties of Washington and Fayette shall be a district, and shall elect two Sena-

tors; Which Senators shall serve until the first enumeration before mentioned shall be made, and the representation in both Houses of the legislature shall be established by law, and chosen as in the Constitution is directed. Any vacancies which shall happen in the Senate, within the said time, shall be supplied as prescribed in the nineteenth section of the first article.

VIII. That the elections of Senators shall be conducted, and the returns thereof made to the Senate, in the same manner as is prescribed by the election laws of the state, for conducting and making return of the election of Representatives. In those districts, which consist of more than one county, the judges of the district elections within each county, after having formed a return of the whole election within that county, in such manner as is directed by law, shall send the same, by one or more of their number, to the place hereinafter mentioned within the district, of which such county is a part, where the judges so met shall compare and cast up the several county returns, and execute, under their hands and seals, one general and true return for the whole district, that is to say; the judges of the district composed of the city of Philadelphia; and the counties of Philadelphia and Delaware shall meet in the state-house in the city of Philadelphia, the judges of the district composed of the counties of Lancaster and York shall meet at the court-house in the county of Lancaster; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Berks and Dauphin shall meet at Middletown, in the county of Berks; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Cumberland and Mifflin shall meet in Greenwood township, county of Cumberland, at the house now occupied

by David Miller ; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Northumberland, Luzerne, and Huntingdon, shall meet in the town of Sunbury; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Bedford and Franklin shall meet at the house now occupied by John Dickey, in Air township, Bedford county ; the judges of the district composed of the counties of Westmoreland and Allegheney shall meet in Westmoreland county, at the court-house in the town of Greensborough; and the judges of the district composed of the counties of Washington and Fayette shall meet at the court-house in the town of Washington, in Washington county, on the third Tuesday in October, respectively, for the purposes aforesaid.

IX. That the election of the Governor shall be conducted in the several counties, in the manner prescribed by the laws of the state for the election of Representatives ; and the returns in each county shall be sealed by the judges of the elections, and transmitted to the President of the Supreme Executive Council, directed to the Speaker of the Senate, as soon after the election as may be.

Extract from an Act to enable Aliens to purchase and hold Real Estates, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—passed 24th March, 1818.

SECT. 1. From and after the passing of this act, it shall and may be lawful for all and every foreigner and foreigners, alien or aliens, not being the subject or subjects of some sovereign state or power which is or shall be at the time or times of such purchase or purchases at war with the United States of America, to purchase lands, tenements, and hereditaments within this Commonwealth, not exceeding five thousand acres, and to have and to hold the same to them, their heirs and assigns for ever, as fully to all intents and purposes as any natural born citizen or citizens may or can do.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALIENS,

Arriving in the United States, who may be desirous of becoming citizens thereof.

Three things are indispensable to the naturalization of an alien, namely ;

1. A report of himself on his arrival in the United States.

2. A declaration of *bona fide* intention to become a citizen.

3. A declaration, upon oath or affirmation, to support the constitution of the United States, and a renunciation of all foreign allegiance.

First—A report of himself, if of the age of twenty-one-years ; or, if under that age, the report to be made for him by his parent, guardian, master, or mistress. It must be made to the clerk of the district court of the district where the alien arrives, or to some other court of the United States, or of either of the territorial districts, or of a particular state.

No. 1. Form of Report.

Name.	Birth place.	Age.	Nation.	Allegiance.	Country whence migrated.	Place of intended settlement.
James Alvin.	Cork,	40	Ireland.	King of G. Britain and Ireland.	Eng	Balt
Sarah Alvin,	Tyrone,	35	do.	do.	do.	do.
Joseph Alvin,	Cork,	10	do.	do.	do.	do.
Mary Alvin,	do.	9	do.	do.	do.	do.
John Alvin.	Dublin,	7	do.	do.	do.	do.
Tho. Jones, } a parent. }	Armagh,	45	do.	do.	do.	do.

Dated at the place of arrival, or of residence, when the report is made, } JAMES ALVIN,
for himself and family.

The foregoing is an example of a report for a whole family. Individuals of twenty-one years of age, having no family, may, of course, report themselves separately, observing the same form. In the case of a minor arriving alone, and having no parent, guardian, master, or mistress, he should be reported by some adult friend, residing in the United States. The clerk will receive and register the report; and his fee, for so doing, is fifty cents.

Secondly.—Two years after the date of the preceding report, (but no sooner,) the aliens mentioned therein may proceed to take the second preparatory step, which

is a declaration of *bona fide* intention to become citizens, and must be made before the supreme superior district, or circuit court of some of the states, or of the territorial districts of the United States, or a circuit or district court of the United States, in the following form:—

No. 2. Form of a declaration of bona fide intention to become a citizen.

I, JAMES ALVIN, a native of Cork, in Ireland, of the age of 42 years, and now or lately owing allegiance to his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, do hereby declare, that it is *bona fide* my intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce, for ever, all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever; and particularly to renounce, for ever, all allegiance and fidelity to his said Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

JAMES ALVIN.

Sworn to, or affirmed, in open court.

Thirdly.—Declaration, upon oath, or affirmation, to support the constitution, and renunciation of foreign allegiance. This is the final step. It may be made three years after the declaration, (No. 2,) but no sooner. When the alien is about to make it, he must apply to the clerk of the court with whom he filed his report, (No. 1,) who will furnish him with a certificate thereof, for a fee of fifty cents; and also to the clerk of the court wherein his declaration (No. 2,) has been made and recorded, from whom he may likewise procure a certificate of such declaration having been made. The alien must then apply to a supreme superior district, or circuit court of some one of the states, or of the territorial districts of the United States; or a circuit

or district court of the United States ; and with the two certificates mentioned, present the following application :—

No. 3. Form of the Application.

To the honourable the district court of the United States for the district of Pennsylvania, now sitting in the city of Philadelphia.

The application of James Alvin respectfully sheweth :
The said applicant has made report, and caused registry to be made of himself, with a view to his naturalization, according to the law of the United States in that case enacted ; a certificate of which report and registry, is herewith exhibited ; and has, moreover, made the declaration of his *bona fide* intention to become a citizen of the United States, as required by law, of which a certificate is likewise herewith presented—Wherefore the said applicant respectfully prays the honourable the court that he may, in the usual form, be admitted a citizen of the United States.

JAMES ALVIN,

Upon this application the court must be satisfied—

1st. That the alien has resided within the United States five years at least.

2d. That he has resided within the state or territory, where the court is at the time held, one year at least.

3d. That, during the five years, the alien has behaved as a man of good moral character—attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

The oath of the applicant will in no case be allowed to prove his residence.

Upon being satisfied upon these points, the court will admit the alien to citizenship, upon his making the following declaration :

184 INSTRUCTIONS TO ALIENS.

No. 4. *Form of the final declaration.*

I, JAMES ALVIN, do hereby declare, that I will support the constitution of the United States, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly I do hereby absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

JAMES ALVIN.

Sworn to, or affirmed, in open court.

If the alien, applying for admission, has borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility, he must add to the next preceding declaration as follows: *And, furthermore, I do hereby expressly renounce all claim to any hereditary title, or order of nobility, and especially to the title of Viscount, Earl, or Marquis, (as the case may be,) which I have heretofore borne.*

The clerk of the court will record all these proceedings, and will furnish, on application, a certificate of citizenship, which will be evidence that the alien has been duly naturalized.

General Observations.

Every court of record, in any individual state, having common law jurisdiction, and a seal, and clerk or prothonotary, is considered as a district court, within the meaning of the act concerning naturalization.

The provisions of the act respecting naturalization have reference to free white aliens only.

Aliens residing within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, between the 18th day of June, 1798, and the 14th day of April, 1802, and who have continued so to reside, may be admitted citizens without a compliance with that provision of the law which requires a declaration of *bona fide* intention.

Any alien who has made report on his arrival in the United States, (as in No. 1,) and who has made a declaration (as in No. 2,) of *bona fide* intention, dying before he is actually naturalized, his widow and children are considered as citizens, and will be entitled to all rights and privileges as such upon taking the oath prescribed by law, (as in No. 4.)

The children of persons duly naturalized under any of the laws of the United States; or who previously to the passing of any law on that subject by the government of the United States, [*i. e.* previously to the 26th of March, 1790,] may have become citizens of any one the states, under the laws thereof, being under the age of 21 at the time of their parent's being naturalized, are, if dwelling in the United States, considered citizens.

The American Medical Association is a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of promoting the interests of the medical profession and the public. It is composed of members who are physicians, surgeons, dentists, and other medical practitioners. The Association is organized into various departments and committees, each of which is responsible for a specific area of medical practice. The Association's primary concern is the advancement of medical science and the improvement of medical practice. It does this by publishing the Journal of the American Medical Association, which is one of the most important medical journals in the world. The Journal contains articles on the latest medical research, as well as reports on the activities of the Association and its members. The Association also publishes a number of other publications, including the American Medical Directory, which is a comprehensive listing of all the medical practitioners in the United States. The Association's efforts are supported by the contributions of its members and by the generosity of the public. The Association's work is essential for the advancement of medicine and the improvement of the health of the people.

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